GOPABANDHU, THE LEGISLATOR

Introduction by

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GOPABANDHU BHAWAN, CUTTACK

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Pandit Gopabandhu Das was a Member of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council formed under the Indian Councils Act of 1909 for four years from 1917 to 1920. The present publication - Gopabandhu, the Legislator is a record of Pandit Gopabandhu's speeches in the Council together with the questions he put and the answers furnished by the Government on the burning topics of the day.

Dr. Sadasiv Misra, Ex-Vice-Chancellor of the Utkal University and a brilliant product of the old Satyabadi School founded by Pandit Gopabandhu, has kindly written the introduction to this Volume and categorised the speeches and questions with his general observations.

On behalf of the Gopabandhu Centenary Celebration Committee we hereby record our grateful thanks to Dr. Misra for the pains he gladly undertook for the compilation of this publication.

Radhanath Rath
Gopabandhu Centenary Celebration Committee
and
Chairman, Lok Sevak Mandal, Orissa Branch, Cuttack.

9th Oct. 1977

INTRODUCTION

Bihar and Orissa was constituted a separate Province in 1912, with areas carved out from the erstwhile Presidency of Bengal. The Orissa Division, included in this new Province, consisted of only five districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur and Angul and Khandmals. The problem of amalgamation of all Oriya-speaking areas under one administration, demanded at the Utkal Sammilani year after year since 1903, was not even touched upon, when this new province was formed.

The Government in India, both at the Centre and in the Provinces, was functioning under the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909. There was no semblance of responsible Government at either level. The first dose of responsible Government in the Provinces was still far off, which came under the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, after the First World War, in 1921.

It was made clear in the Morley-Minto Reforms that it aimed at no representative Government and the ultimate responsibility of the whole of Indian Government rested with the British Parliament. In the provincial administration as in the Centre, the Executive was not, in any way, responsible to the legislature. In fact, control over legislative functions was exercised by the Executive.

Under the Indian Councils Act of 1909, formulated on the basis of Morley-Minto Reforms, there was introduced an element of election to the Legislative Councils. Some members came into the Councils as representatives of the people, but they were called additional members. The Executive Council was expanded by the inclusion of such additional members,

for purposes of legislation. The Members of the Executive Council, with official and nominated members, formed the majority. The few additional members provided merely association of Indian representatives, but had no powers to shape the policy or activities of administration.

In the Province of Bihar and Orissa, on this pattern, the Lieutenant-Governor presided over the Legislative Council. The Members of the Executive Council and a number of official members formed the official bloc. The nominated non-official members added to this majority strength. Under the category of elected membership, Orissa's share was just one and the representative was to be elected by the local bodies in Orissa.

Madhusudan Das, known respectfully as Mr. Das, suggested to Pandit Gopabandhu to stand for election to the Bihar and Orissa Council. Gopabandhu knew that it would be futile to be a member of the Council where he would not be able to achieve anything for the people. The government was not designed to be responsible. Mr. Morley had made it clear. "If I were attempting to set up a Parliamentary system in India", he stated in the Parliament," or if it could be said that this chapter of reforms led directly or necessarily upto the establishment of a Parliamentary system in India, I, for one, would have nothing to do with it." Government had an impregnable majority of official and nominated non-official members to resist any move or suggestions by any elected member. Gopabandhu would not like to break his head against this stone wall of resistance. Yet the persuation of Mr. Das was irresistible. Gopabandhu offered himself as a candidate and was elected to Bihar & Orissa Council in 1917.

For four years, from 1917 to 1920, Gopabandhu was a Member of the Council. During this short period, in a Council dominated by an official bloc and steadfastly supported by nominated members, he made an indeli-

ble mark as a legislator and earned respect and admiration from all, including those who were opposed to his presentations. He sincerely devoted himself to his work in the Council. Unlike many legislators, he had absolute identity between his philosophy of life, work and activities on the one hand and his writings, speeches and deliberations on the other. No wonder, his pleadings in the Council elicited rapt attention and genuine appreciation.

Once in 1919 at Chakradharpur, Mr. Scott, Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum came to meet Pandit Gopabandhu Das. Gopabandhu had no personal acquaintance with Mr. Scott and therefore enquired how and whether he had known him. Mr. Scott gave a surprising reply. "I have seen you thrice before" he said." I was once in the visitors' gallery in the Legislative Council and heard you speaking and I was so much charmed with it that I have twice again gone to the Council to hear you." Gopabandhu's speeches fascinated even the staunch custodians of British imperialism in India. Mr. Scott went so far as to mention that his speeches reminded him of the magnificent speeches of Mr. Balfour, Prime Minister of England, who was a celebrated orator in the Parliament.

Gopabandhu prepared his speeches with utmost care, personal investigation and extensive studies. Prepared, of course. He used to go frequently to the Imperial Library and the Asiatic Society in Calcutta for collecting materials. Draft speeches prepared by him were discussed with his young colleagues, Nilkantha, Godavarish, Krupasindhu and Acharya Harihar. After such discussions, he gave final shape to his speeches to be delivered in the Legislative Council. His facts were unimpeachable, his references were uncontrovertible; his style was unassailable. With winning manners and emotional appeals, he made his presentatiions effective even though the House, as it was constituted, was seldom responsive.

One would recall Gokhale's outstanding achievements. A few years back, Gopalkrishna Gokhale had established unbeatable records as a great Legislator in the Imperial Legislative Council He prepared his speeches with assiduous diligence. He discussed his draft speeches with his colleagues, enriched them with their suggestions and gave them final shape for presentation in the Council. He even practised delivery of his speeches by going round the temple located on a hill in Poona. His speeches on budgets have become classic. Lord Curzon, one of the ablest of the Governors-General, who presided over the Council, was deeply impressed by Gokhale's speeches. Once during budget discussions, Gokhale happended to be absent and Lord Curzon was said to have made a remark that without Gokhale, the discussion was like staging Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark.

Sir Edward Gait was the Lieutenant Governor of Bihar and Orissa and he presided over the meetings of the Council. He was not only impressed by the magnificent speeches of Gopabandhu, but was moved by his eloquent appeals. Speaking on the famine conditions in the Puri district, Gopabandhu gave a succinct and faithful picture of the plight of the people. Mr. Gruning, Commissioner of Orissa, intervened saying that everything that could be done had been done and was being done. But Sir Edward Gait was deeply moved by the emotional appeal of Gopabandhu and paid a visit to the famine-affected areas in the Puri District. He saw the distress of the people and remarked that unfortunately Government had not done what should have been done. What an admission ! In an unresponsive Legislative Council, dominated by officials and supported by nominated non-officials, it was a formidable task for an elected member, belonging to a slender minority, to make himself heard and felt, much less appreciated. But Gopabandhu was able to secure admiration and enlist sympathetic understanding by

the Lieutenant Governor and develop intimate personal relations with him.

The Calcutta Congress in 1920 decided to adopt non-cooperation and consequent boycott of Legislature. Gopabandhu thereupon decided to withdraw from the Legislative Council. Having come to know this decision of Gopabandhu, Sir Edward Gait sent for him and advised him to continue in the Council where he would get opportunities for doing useful work. Gopabandhu thanked him profusely for his nobility and sympathetic understanding; but expressed his frustrating experience of four years with a hard-hearted and unresponsive government. His last attendance in the Council was on the 10th September, 1920. He did not look at the Council, even when the first dose of responsibility came in 1921 in the shape of dyarchy in the Provinces.

Even after sixty years, his speeches in the Council make delightful and inspiring reading. They are not merely of historical interest. they are still expositions of certain basic issues concerning the State and the people of Orissa. This book gives a complete record of Gopabandhu's activities and contributions as a Legislator, collected from the proceedings of the Bihar and Orissa Council. It contains not only his speeches on Resolutions and annual finances of the Province, but also his searching questions put to Government with replies furnished thereto.

A chronological publication of his speeches and questions in the Council may not be quite convenient to the reader. He may not be able to locate immediately the particular subject he desires to look into. In this publication, therefore, his speeches have been classified under five major categories, viz :

(i) Education, (ii) Flood and Famine,
(iii) Salt Industry, (iv) Annual Budgets and
(v) Miscellaneous.

Gopabandhu thought of education as the major instrument of social transformation. The Satyabadi School was his significant and concrete formulation of this objective. In the Council, he made eloquent speeches, with detailed analysis on various aspects of education from Primary to University levels. All these have been given under the first category. Flood and famine have been frequent visitors to this unfortunate land. Gopabandhu identified himself with the distress of the people. C. F. Andrews mentioned at Gopabandhu's death that "his pity for the villagers was a beautiful thing to witness." Gopabandhu's speeches on flood and famine form the second category. The East India Company had prohibited salt manufacture by the people of Orissa. The British Government imposed an excise duty and manufacture of salt was not permitted without government permission. Gopabandhu protested strongly against such restriction and made an exhaustive and forceful case for free manufacture of salt. This has been given under the third category. Gopabandhu was in the Council for four years and every year, he made incisive speeches on the budget. These have been given under the fourth category. The last category contains miscellaneous speeches including one for the supply of drinking water to Puri. It is hoped that this classified presentation will be convenient and helpful.

In the Council, he put questions on various matters. All these questions with the replies given by Government have been given in a separate chapter, instead of being clubbed together with his speeches. It is expected that the arrangement will help the reader to locate easily the particular topic he desires to find out.

Gopabandhu's performances in the legislature were outstanding. His speeches make delightful and exciting reading. Their publication in the year of his birth centenary constitutes an humble contribution to the memory of this great personality.

Sadasiv Misra

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SPEECH ON PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL

The Hon'ble Mr. Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"Section 15 of the Bill shows that Governor will not require to find funds for working the Act. Government aid is sought for introducing into the Bill the element of compulsion which requires legislative sanction. There was a reference to the coercive element in the Bill which was to-day introduced in this Council. There are penal laws to punish parents who do not provide food for their children. It is reasonable that parents should be expected to feed the intellect of their children so that society and the State may both have the advantage of a fully-developed man. The whole country loudly demands responsible Govt. and if they do not find funds for primary education, which is essential for responsible Government, we should be exposing ourselves to severe censure. Some speakers have dwelt on sanitation and medical relief and they seem to think that these should have priority over primary education. But without some education it is impossible to make the people understand what sanitation is; therefore primary education should have priority. Everybody is at liberty to educate his children. In the Orissa villages many people raise funds by subscription and engage a teacher to teach the children. They do not require Government sanction. It is only the compulsory element in the Bill which needs Government sanction and the motion now is for leave to introduce the Bill. The detailed provisions of the Bill need not be discussed now".

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I desire to associate myself with this motion. The necessity and importance of making primary education free and compulsory cannot be too highly emphasized at this time. The principle has not only been recognized but worked with success in almost all the civilized countries of the world. The Government of India have accepted it in as much as they have accorded their sanction to the introduction of the Bill not only in this Council but also in some other Provincial Councils. It has been recognised and put into action by some of the advanced native states of India. The time requires it and the country demands it. I am sure this Government will not fall behind. I do not doubt that this Government will hesitate in recognizing the principle of compulsion as desirable and necessary for the wider diffusion of education among the masses. If the principle is recognized, there can be no possible objection to accepting the motion. As to the details of the Bill, whether it will be workable is a matter to be discussed by the Select Committee to be appointed when the present motion is carried".

31 . 1 . 1918

PROVISION FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AT CUTTACK.

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das moved the following Resolution :—

"That this Council recommends to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that Rs. 26,000 be allotted in the budget for the proposed Engineering School at Cuttack (of which the necessary preliminaries may be undertaken without further delay in anticipation of the sanction of the Government of India) and that to make up this amount Rs. 14,000 be taken from the non-recurring grant of Rs. 84,000/- for the high school at Patna and Rs. 12,000 from the grant of Rs. 32,000 for the boarding house in the Protestant European School at Cuttack".

He Said :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"The question of an Engineering School for Orissa has long been under the consideration of Government. It was first mooted some twelve years ago when Orissa was with Bengal. The students who passed the two years' course of the Cuttack Survey School having not proved competent as sub-overseers, the necessity of raising the school to the standard of the Bihar School of Engineering was clearly recognised. Even in 1906 a site was selected for the proposed Engineering School at Cuttack, but the matter did not proceed further until 1913 when the survey school was reduced to an Amin class. What a sad disappointment this was to the people of Orissa who expected that under the new administration which promised them greater care and attention, the establishment of an Engineering School for which the Chief of Athgarh had already contributed Rs. 20,000, would not be further delayed'. This

sum has been in deposit with Government for the last five years.

"Upon the reduction of the survey school to an Amin class the Government directed that the concession previously granted to the passed students of the school qualifying them for appointment as third grade sub-overseers should be withdrawn. The effect of this was that the number of students fell considerably, the figure for March 1917 being 13 against 84 in 1912. In fact the Amin class has been not only unpopular in the extreme but also absolutely useless., yet it is maintained at a heavy cost. The monthly cost for the education of each student was Rs. 43-8-0 during the year 1915-16, though a passed student of the school can hardly expect to get an appointment worth Rs. 10 or 12 a month. The Commissioner of the Division who visited the school in April last, was of opinion that the school served no purpose and that it was desirable to introduce at any rate the first year of the sub-overseer course, pending the sanction of the Government of India to the scheme for an Orissa School of Engineering.

"The dealy in the establishment of the Engineering School has caused much dissatisfaction and uneasiness in the minds of the public in Orissa. Orissa members have touched on the subject in their budget speeches in this Council successively for the last two years and in their interpellations in the Council and interviews with authorities have sufficiently indicated the public impatience and anxiety over the matter. But we are always told that proposals have been submitted to the Government of India for a complete reconstitution on the lines of the Bihar School of Engineering.

"The need for an Engineering School in Orissa is obvious and cannot be too strongly emphasized. Oriyas are very poorly, or rather practically not at all, represented in the Public Works Department of their

own Division. There is only one Oriya sub-overseer on a grade above Rs. 50/- in the executive staff of the department. Under local bodies and in the Feudatory States the number of Oriya overseers and sub-overseers is extremely insignificant. The educated community in Orissa cannot but look upon this state of helplessness with a sense of grief and pain. Proposals have no doubt been submitted to the Government of India but the delay has been unusually long and intolerably trying. I earnestly hope that this Government will move the Government of India to expedite matters. And in anticipation of sanction from that Government steps should be taken to prepare the necessary preliminaries and open the first year of the sub-overseer course as was suggested by the Hon'ble Mr. Le. Mesurier in April last. This will inspire hope and faith in the minds of the educated community and will hasten the execution of the scheme in all completeness immediately after the sanction is obtained.

"Such provisions in anticipation of sanction have often been made in the budget and my proposal introduces no new principle. I propose only a very modest sum to be provided in the budget for the preliminary works of the proposed Engineering School. I do not suggest curtailment from a different head in the budget. There should be no objection to the transfer of a certain sum of money from one educational item to another. The whole sum of Rs. 84,000 allotted for the high school in Patna cannot be spent in one year. If it be reduced by only Rs. 14,000/- it will not in any way affect the work.

"A boarding-house for the Cuttack Protestant Europeon School may be a necessity but an Engineering School is a greater necessity of the same locality, so there ought to be a settlement between the two. I am afraid most of the boarding-houses of our public schools are often made more costly than is necessary.

Considering the number of students of the Cuttack European School for whom a hostel may urgently be needed, I think Rs. 20,000 will be sufficient for the purpose. If necessary the hostel may be extended afterwards. So Rs. 12,000 may be taken from that head.

"Sir, I hope, I am making no unreasonable request and I trust Your Honour's Government will give the subject the sympathetic consideration that it deserves. With these few words I beg to move the Resolution which stands against my name".

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das said :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"It is very painful to live always in hope. However, with the assurance that every endeavour will be made by this Government to carry out the proposal of an Engineering School as soon as the sanction of the Government of India is received, I think I should withdraw my Resolution; but before I resume my seat I again urge most respectfully that all possible preliminary steps should be taken so that no further delay may be caused when sanction is received".

Leave was granted and the resolution withdrawn.

13-3-1918

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OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das moved the following resolution:

"That this Council recommends to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that in primary and secondary schools of this Province open-air conditions of living and teaching be, as far as practicable, encouraged and that costly buildings of a type plan as a condition for the recognition of a school be dispensed with if the school can be run on open-air lines with advantage".

Encourgement of open-air Primary and Secodary School. (Page 31.)

He said :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"The resolution which I beg to move proposes nothing new. It simply recommends the use of that old universal thing, the first condition of life-I mean the pure air, the virtue of which is little recognized, perhaps owing to its abundance in nature. It only emphasizes what medical men are always preaching as the primary requisite for a healthy existence.

"Nor do I ask for a novel experiment; for your Honour knows that an open-air school is not a mere idea with me. It is not a picture drawn by imagination from the accounts of asramas and institutions of ancient India. To me it is fact, an actual thing which I have made, tried, and found sufficiently to stand the test. I would not have ventured to press the Government for its adoption as a system, were I not myself convinced of its usefulness and suitability to the purpose for which it is intended.

"The subject of my resolution is in the first place educational and as such it may fairly admit of an aca-

demic treatment for which, I am afraid, the present is not an appropriate occasion. But at any rate I wish to make it clear at the outset that I claim no originality in the experiment of the open-air system in the education of our youths. The Indian educational system of bygone days offers a precedent for this, and the open-air method has long survived the many changes that have come over the country, and has still been lingering in our village Patshalas and Tols though it has now been almost supplanted by closed costly buildings. I remember how in my childhood I received my lessons in the village Patshala under the spreading Banyan tree which could give accommodation to children of all castes, high and low, each occupying his seat separately. In the sacred shed of that historic tree the distinction of caste among the children did almost vanish, a fact which contributed in no small measure to the greater degree of literacy in Orissa.

"I believe, Sir, most of the members of this Council are aware that the Victoria Satyabadi School, with which I am associated from its inception, is run on open-air lines. It has passed the stage of experiment, and during the last ten years of its existence its open air character has not only given satisfaction to the students and teachers but has also impressed those who have favoured the institution with their kind visits. From the result obtained at Satyabadi I feel myself justified in commending the open-air living and teaching for general acceptance.

"I think, Sir, I have not brought this resolution before the Council too early. The time has come when open-air methods should be introduced in our schools where and when it can be conveniently and advantageously followed. Influenza, tuberculosis and many other infections and epidemics are causing terrible havoc in the country, and medical opinion is unanimous that the use of the open air is a chief remedy for

these diseases. Our boys should learn to value the fresh pure air properly, and when its importance is brought home to them, they will be our chief agents in making the people appreciate its efficacy.

"There is also another consideration which is not less important-I mean the cost of education. In the meeting of the Select Committee on the Compulsory Primary Education Bill there arose the question of expenditure on education which necessarily involved the subject of school buildings. It cannot be denied that the importance attached to school-houses in our present system entails an expenditure which is by no means insignificant. If the country is to be studded with primary schools, as it must be before primary education is made effectively free and compulsory, enormous expenditure has to be incurred on account of buildings, unless there is a change in the existing method and ideas. Everybody who has experience in organising a school, knows very well that the initial chief difficulty is the building. Complaint is often heard that inspecting officers look more to the building and furniture than to the actual teaching, as if bricks and wood possess all the virtues necessary to make education efficient and effective. Who does not know that for some defects in the school-houses grants are often suspended, and sometimes schools are reduced in status and occasionally threatened with abolition.

"That more money is spent on buildings than is necessary has often been a matter of public complaint. In a country with the traditions of forest Universities such a complaint cannot be said to have no meaning. The large, rather the lavish, expenditure on school buildings has produced an undesirable impression on the minds of the people, which is responsible for the suggestion often made in several quarters that much of the increased educational allotments is deliberately wasted on houses and furniture in the name of effi-

ciency with the result that the expansion of education has been extremely slow and does not satisfy the growing demand of the country for a wider diffusion of knowledge. In these circumstances, I respectfully submit that it would be not a day too soon to take steps to minimize the cost of buildings.

"From the reply given by Government to a question of mine on the subject, it appears that a type plan for middle schools costs Rs. 6,500 and the cost of construction of buildings for the Government High English Schools varies from Rs. 1,06,000 to Rs. 1,42,000. These are astounding figures, of course, for a country whose poverty and ignorance make it imperative that its education should be as cheap as possible. It may be said that for private schools such heavy sums may not be necessary, but Government Schools are the models and departmental authorities will generally demand that private institutions should follow this model. It was to meet this demand that we had to spend a large sum of money on the buildings of the Satyabadi School unnecessarily and quite against our will. Though we followed the open-air system from the very beginning, we could not advocate its cause successfully without having a building, for we would then be misunderstood as trying to make a virtue of a necessity. Many distinguished officers of the department visited the school and seemed to have been favourably impressed with its open-air conditions, but none of them suggested any change in the school buildings which would reduce the cost of construction until Dr. A. Lankester, M. D. (London), on special duty for tuberculosis inquiry, Indian Research Fund Association, expressed his regret at our buildings being so out of harmony with the general open-air life. He writes:—

"In connection with my work, I am naturally interested to a special degree in all attempts to familiarize the people with the work under open-air conditions and it was delightful to see how thoroughly the

school was being run on simple open-air lines without any sacrifice of real efficiency.

"It was difficult to avoid some feeling of regret that the new buildings necessitated by the recent affiliation of the school to the University should be of a character so different to the remainder of the school. One would have thought that these buildings also might have been of a simpler character affording necessary protection under more completely open-air conditions".

"The opinion of so eminent an authority gave us no small support and now we found ourselves in a position to continue our open-air work with some security and confidence. I may, however, be permitted here to take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Jennings, C. I. E., who visited the Satyabadi School in his capacity as Director of Public Instruction; for his sincere and sympathetic appreciation of our work on open-air conditions, and it is no small satisfaction to me that since his visit to the Satyabadi school, he has got a plan prepared for primary schools on open-air lines and forwarded copies thereof by his circular letter of the 27th May, 1918 to all chairmen of District Boards of the Province. But it is a pity that the matter did not proceed further and it did not receive the consideration of the local authorities to which it was undoubtedly entitled, It need hardly be said that the step taken by the Director of Public Instruction amounts to a practical acceptance of the system I propose. As a matter of fact, the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Jennings called his plan 'the plan of the open-air primary schools'. My resolution asks for a wider application of this plan and proposes to make the secondary schools run on open-air lines. In this I am supported by another educational officer of thought and independence of judgement. Mr R. McCombe, M. A., Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, in his inspection note on the Satyabadi School observes :—

"However, a valuable lesson has been learnt from the experiment here made. It is clear that, a high school in India can be sufficiently conducted through the greater part of the year in the open-air, provided it possesses a piece of land shaded by plenty of trees. And it appears that for use in the rains a building of the simplest description, consisting mainly of roof and partition wall is all that is required'.

"From the experience I have been able to gather by practical working and the suggestions received from the action and opinion of high educational and medical authorities, I think, I am now in a position to lay out a scheme for the formation of open-air classes. Places of natural advantage should always be sought for the work." Almost very village in this country can afford one such spot. The shady mango topes in our rural areas would be exceedingly suited to characteristic open-air classes. Where natural shade is wanting, trees may-be grown.

"Buildings cannot, however, be dispensed with altogether. They would be necessary for wet weather. But they should be of the simplest description. The wall should be only four feet high but the rooms should be separated by partition walls raised high up to the roof. The roof should be so sloped as to cover a spacious verandah outside the class. The roof may be of any material, straw or tile, that may be cheap and available in the locality. A building of this description does not materially differ from the Hon'ble Mr. Jennings' plan of open-air primary schools, which also answers to the character and description of buildings indicated by Mr. Mc Combe. Some of the classes of the Satyabadi School are held in buildings of this type and they are found to work comfortably.

"In a conference of the Deputy Inspectors of Schools of the Orissa Division, I was given the pleasure and privilege to propose planting of trees in school

compounds. It was accepted, and at the instance of the then Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, Mr. W. V. Duke, president of the conference, the department has given effect to the proposal, for which I am sincerely thankful.

"Thus the steps hitherto taken by the department meet my resolution half way. Its acceptance by Govern ment would only encourage the department to follow up these steps further and would give educational officers the authority, and the public the sanction, to work out the open-air idea with great completeness and courage.

"Not only in schools but also in hostels open-air lines should be followed. Hostels attached to Government high schools are costly buildings. Consequently the boarders have to pay a high rate of seat rents. The wisdom of the system is very doubtful. Most of our students come from villages where they live in thatched houses and huts. When they come to the school hostel, they find themselves under changed conditions. The change may and does, no doubt, bring them greater comfort, which to most of them is a luxury. In a few years the boarder becomes so accustomed to living in such costly surroundings that he probably begins to look down upon his own village and its people. Moreover, except a very few of the students, others in their after-life are unable to afford to live in such costly quarters, and discontent throughout their lives is an inevitable result. It is certainly not a divine discontent. I admit, education should raise the standard of living. But plain living and high thinking should be a better and more desirable standard to be placed before our students.

"I believe I have sufficiently explained the importance of an open-air school from economic considerations. If the Government think that costly buildings will in the long run secure greater economy, they may

raise such buildings. But the less the cost, the better, and the savings thus made can be utilised in other direc-tions, say on a library and on tuition, to effect real improvement in the efficiency of the school. I urge specially on behalf of private schools. I do not doubt that their management under completely open-air conditions will remove in a considerable degree the financial difficulties which they have to face in the beginning of their life and which in many cases render their development almost impossible.

"The importance of the sanitary consideration already indicated should not be overlooked. On this point I have to refer again to the Satyabadi School, and I may be pardoned for such frequent references which in the circumstances of the case become unavoidable. Most of our boys are poor. They have to live on simple poor diet, but they are not poor in physique for all that. I respectfully invite your Honour to bear testimony to their physical strength and agility. They were free from influenza which was prevalent on all sides at their very door. If there be one thing more than ano-ther to which the healthy cheerful life of the Satyabadi students is due, I would unhesitatingly point to the fresh open air in which they live, move and have their being. Allow me, Sir, to say that we have so long been courting insanitation, ill-health, dyspepsia, loss of eye-sight and all such complaints at a very heavy price. Let us now pull down the walls of our schools so that our children may live a healthy and simple life in a freer atmo-sphere, as the children of nature. Let not the place of instruction give a sense of confinement to the child. Let it be at once his school, his playground, and his place of recreation.

"As a place of instruction an open-air school is best suited for teaching almost all subjects that do not require experiment in a laboratory. Nature study which forms so important a part in a child's education,

can be done successfully only outside the school room. An open-air school affords greater scope to the teacher to carry on the direct method of teaching. Lessons on poetry, drawing; botany, hygiene can be imparted in gardens and groves in the open air with better effect. Let the student see living nature herself with his own eyes and enjoy the sweet sounds and serene beauties around him. Such a direct contact with nature would lend his lessons a life and a force which would be utterly lacking in a closed classroom. It would certainly expand his mind and bring it into communion with the 'spirit which is in the wood'. Is this not a higher standard of living, worthy of being sought at the sacrifice of the luxury of living in a place ?

"Considered from any standpoint, an open-air school proves itself to be a distinct advantage. 'It is strange', says Mr. McCombe, 'that it has taken so many generations to make this discovery'. The discovery has, however, been made, and a truth found out. It is now for the members of this Council and for your Honour's Government either to receive or reject this truth".

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"I thank the Government for accepting the resolution, and I hope it will have a very good effect in the country".

The resolution was put and agreed to.

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22-1-1919

RAVENSHAW COLLEGE BUILDING

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :–

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I rise to oppose this motion. I have gone through the printed reply of the hon'ble member in charge. It is very kind of him to anticipate that the resolution will be unwelcome to the representatives of Orissa. It will not only be unwelcome, I say, to myself, but also to the people whom I have the honour to represent, who would consider it as the unkindest cut of all. Well, all my friends from Bihar claim here that the Province is to be a self-contained unit. They urge that the Government are bound by promise to make this province a self-contained one. But they should remember that one portion of the Province should not be selfish. Well, has not Orissa reason to grudge ? When this Province was formed, Your Honour's predecessor in most clear terms announced that Orissa would have half of the attention of Govt. Is not that assurance a sufficient pledge to the people of Orissa, who always urge that the share of attention which has hitherto been given to Orissa, does not justify the assurance ? The Province will have a university and Patna will be the university centre. Although Your Honour has more than once expressed your desire that Cuttack will be the second university centre and although Your Honour has given us hope to believe that within a measurable distance of time that hope will be fulfilled, my friend, the Rai Bahadur there, would like

Resolution of Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha recommending the Govt. to set apart Rs. 10,000/- for the building of Provincial museum of Industry & Agriculture at Bankipore from the provision of Rs. 2 Lakhs made for the building of the Ravenshaw College at Cuttack,

to have Rs. 10,000 deducted from the allotment made in the budget for the college, the work of which has been held in abeyance for the last four years on account of financial stringency. You have your university college; you have provision for post-graduate study here; you want an engineering school to develop into an engineering college; you want a medical college for the Province; in the name of the Province you want precisely for Bihar, and yet you desire to have Rs. 10,000 deducted from the sum to which Govt. have pledged themselves for four years, for which plans and estimates are ready and all preliminary necessities have been settled. You will have your museum, etc., but poor Orissa will die for a morsel of food. We want a simple collegiate education; but after you have satisfied yourselves with collegiate education you want teachnical education. Is that fair ? I oppose this resolution with all the emphasis that I can command. The reply of the hon'ble member which has been placed on the table gives me some solace and satisfaction".

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4-3-1919

STUDY OF SANSKRIT

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"I beg to give my support to this resolution".

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

Regarding the resolution of Rai Bahadur Dwarkanath for making provision of Rs. 25,000/ by the Sanskrit Associations for giving grants to Sanskrit Tols

I beg to support this resoultion. Besides the two colleges that we have at Muzaffarpur and at Puri, the Tols in this Province are too few to be sufficient for the supervision of a Superintendent and two Assistant Superintendents. The Pay of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendents amounts to Rs. 9,000 a year. If we add to this amount their travelling allowances, it would come up to say Rs. 10,000. I doubt if we spend an equal amount for the Tols that they have to supervise. It is really a matter of satisfaction that special attention is given to Sanskrit and other oriental studies in this Province. The people as well as the Government have recognised the importance of these studies; but unless we multiply the number of Tols, mere profession of our sympathy for oriental studies will not go very far to really help the cause of Sanskrit or Persian learning.

"I heartily support the resolution of the hon'ble member and I hope that the matter will receive the Government's full consideration. At any rate the number of Tols should be sufficient to justify the appointment of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendents".

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4-3-1919

FREE-STUDENTSHIP

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabnadhu Das moved the following resolution :—

Resolution regarding fixation of percentage of free scholarships in relation to the total member on roll.

"That this Council recommends to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that the minimum number of free-studentship in the colleges of the Province be fixed at five per cent. of the total number on the rolls of the colleges, exclusive of the students who may be in receipt of stipends or free-studentships from any local charitable endowments or funds".

He said :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"Before I speak on the subject-matter of the resolution, allow me, Sir, to briefly narrate the circumstances that led me to bring up this subject before the Council. The members of the Council are aware, that in the beginning of the present college session when the fee rates in several colleges of the Province were raised, it caused some feeling of dissatisfaction among the educated community, which found expression in the press. Some students and guardians complained to me of the increase, and my reply to them was that efficient teaching must necessitate higher cost. Of course those who have fair competency and a certain source of income, may meet the increased charges of the education of their boys without much difficulty. But most of our students in schools and colleges come from the middle classes who are generally poor. The year that is just passed has been a bad year. There has been distress, more or less, in all parts of the Province. The middle class people have been affected and this has affected the strength of some of our educational institutions. Consequently many students in the college have felt

the increase of the cost of living in town which has become inevitable in the present state of the country. The increased fee rate has also added to their burden. I know many deserving students could not prosecute their studies in the college owing to their inability to meet the expenses which have appreciably increased. Many of these students were candidates for free-studentship in their colleges. But the number of free-studentships is limited, and only a few could get them. Free-studentships are no small help to such students. I have come across some of these poor and deserving college students, and I am convinced that some help, however small, would give them a little relief in their struggling career in the college. This conviction led me to put some questions on the subject of free-studentships in colleges in the meeting of the Legislative Council in August last. I thought the disproportion between the number of students on the rolls and the number of free-studentships in each college would impress itself upon the authorities, who might raise the number of free-studentships proportionately to the increase in the number of students. But nothing appears to have been done in this direction. Now I approach the Government with the resolution on the subject in the hope that they will give the matter their careful and sympathetic consideration.

"From the statement given to me by the Government in reply to my questions it will appear that there is no rule on the allotment of free-studentships in colleges as there is for high schools. In some colleges such as the Bihar National College and the Diamond Jubilee College, free-studentships are allowed up to a limit between five and six per cent of the total number on the roll. But in the two premier Government colleges of the Province, the Patna College and the Ravenshaw College, the number is ludicrously small, bearing a proportion of a little over one per cent. to the total number of students in each case. In the

Patna College only six free-studentships were established in 1908 when the strength of the College was 209. In the Ravenshaw College an equal number of free-studentships was also instituted the next year, and the number on the roll was then 252. Since then the strength in both these colleges has largely increased, the present number in the Patna College being 504 and that in the Ravenshaw College 514. Notwithstanding this increase, the number of free-studentships remains the same. In the Tej Narayan Jubilee College there were 21 free-studentships in 1890 when the college had only 101 students. The present number is 580 but there seems to have been no increase of free-studentships during these thirty years..

"From the above facts it is clear that there is no uniformity of rules about free-studentships in colleges, and I respectfully submit that the time has come when the question should be carefully considered. It is now necessary and desirable to introduce the percentage rule with regard to free-studentships in colleges such as we have in schools.

"It cannot be doubted that in recent years the desire of the people for higher education has grown very keen. This is evident from the increased number of applicants for admission into our colleges. The desire ought to be fostered and encouraged. But in this country, the majority of our students come from humble life and from the poorer section of the community, and some of them are remarkably intelligent. It is a pity to see poor and intelligent youths struggling hard to maintain themselves in the college. I know students who do not take tiffin and have often to live on one meal a day. It is for these fellows that the help and patronage of society and of the State is most needed. With the increase in the cost of education the misery of these people is bound to increase, and consequently the door of the University becomes closed against most of them.

It is often said that high education is not for the poor; it is meant for those only who can afford to pay for it. If this be followed as a policy to guide the course of our University education, it will deprive our colleges of many bright and deserving students. In a province like Bihar and Orissa, where people are so poor and education so backward, no such policy can be stated with any degree of seriousness. For we all believe that Your Honour's Government are anxious to further the cause of high education in the province. The members of this Council know that Your Honour is sincerely anxious to place the new Patna University on a solid and permanent basis, and to improve the conditions of the external colleges which you would like to see grow up in time into so many Universities. But to make our colleges vigorous and progressive institutions, capable of such development, it is as necessary to increase their efficiency as to increase the number of students in them. The increase of students will throw heavy responsibilities on Government. Provisions have to be made for larger accommodations in halls and hostels, for the maintenance of more efficient staffs and of better equipped libraries and laboratories. All these cannot be done without sufficient funds. Educational expenditure will therefore be necessarily more in the future than in the past. I admit free-studentships will add to this charge, and this addition will increase if we mean to have more and more deserving and meritorious students in our colleges. But the charge on account of the free-studentships will only be an insignificant fraction of the total expenditure to be incurred on other items.

"My resolution does not involve any new principle. Education of the people is a duty of the State. This is a time-honoured doctrine in India, where, in ancient days students used to receive instruction free on all subjects. The people cherish the tradition even now. In modern times this responsibility has also been

recognized in different degrees by different states. In India a system of free primary education now appears to be within sight. But we are far off from the time when a system of free university education might be considered as within the pale of practical politics, though, in a few Indian states like Mysore, attempts are being made in this direction. It is to be acknowleged that in recognition of their paternal duty to deserving and indigent students, the Government have established a certain number of scholarships and free studentships. Scholarships are very few in number. They are again awarded in consideration of merit only. irrespective of the condition of the student. In any district or division there are certainly many more students who are capable and deserving than the few who get scholarships. Some of these students are given free-studentships in consideration of their condition and character besides their merit, and they benefit thereby immensely. Half a loaf is better than no loaf. Thus Sir, what the resolution aims at, is that there should be some rule which every college will have to follow in working out a principle already recognized.

"The Patna University committee have also recognized the necessity and importance of free-studentships, though for each of the external colleges they have arbitrarily fixed the number at 8 only. My request in the resolution is reasonable and modest. It means that for 20 paying students there will be one free or in other words out of one hundred rupees received, only rupees five will be given, a very humble share which can be fairly claimed of the earnings of a private individual for any charitable purpose.

"On a motion of my friend the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dwarakanath, the percentage of free-studentships in schools has been raised from five to ten. I submit, Sir, that this increase in schools makes it necessary to increase the number of free-studentships in the colleges

so that the free-students of schools might continue to have the same advantage in their college career.

"As I have already said the fee rates in almost all colleges of the province have been raised recently. With the figures that I could obtain of the Patna College. and the Ravenshaw College, I have roughly calculated that in consequence of the increased fees there will be an increase in the receipt of each of the two colleges during the current session of about six thousand rupees over the income of the last year, though the number on the rolls in the present session is less than in the previous year. Of course, in view of the increased expenditure which has become necessary to raise the efficiency of the colleges, this increase in the revenue is nothing. But it has the effect of keeping out of the college a few more students who are poor but might be acquisitions to the community of students of the college for their merit and character. It need hardly be said that the increase of free-studentships would minimize this effect to a certain extent.

"In their proposal for the establishment of intermediate colleges separated from the University, the Calcutta University Commission calculate the cost of this new type of institution on the assumption "that a uniform fee of rupees five per mensem would be charged in each class and that ten per cent of the students would enjoy free places and ten per cent pay only half fees." This means there would be ordinarily fifteen per cent free in an intermediate college. Although we have not yet thoroughly considered the report of the commission to judge as to which of their suggestions might be worked out in this province, Your Honour's Government had anticipated their recommendation with regard to the separation of intermediate classes from the University by removing the I. A. Classes from the Patna College. Hopes are now entertained in several quarters that at no distant date there will

spring up intermediate colleges at important centres of the province. I earnestly trust, if my resolution be considered in the light of this suggestion made by so eminent and impartial an authority on the subject; this Council will not hesitate to lend it their whole-hearted support and the Government will not grudge their acceptance.

"After referring to the opinion of the Calcutta University Commission, I do not think it necessary to refer to the existing practice in other provinces. Some of them have big endowments for educational purposes. There are many private colleges where intelligent needy students receive much help and advantage. The financial position of their universities has become stable and secure. I know in post-graduate classes Calcutta University awards a larger number of free-studentships, over 10 per cent of the number on the roll. But the province of Bihar and Orissa suffers seriously from lack of private charities for education. Our University is too young to help itself. In these circumstances, our poor and deserving students in colleges will only look up to the Government for help and encouragement.

"The acceptance of this resolution will not after all involve any heavy loss of income. Three of the colleges in the province are more or less following the rules for which I urge. In other colleges the existing number of free-studentships will have to be increased to comply with the rule. While the loss may be so small, the gain to the colleges themselves and to the country would be great. For I always hold that a promising youth properly educated and trained to the development of full manhood is an invaluable asset to society and the Government.

"In conclusion permit me, Sir, to say that in pleading the cause of merit which is unfortunately often mated

with poverty, I do not ask for favour. The meritorious youth has a claim upon the State and in coming to a decision on the resolution this Council will only decide this claim."

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I take it, Sir, that the Hon'ble Member in charge objects to fixing the percentage at the minimum of five per cent, expressing hope to leave the matter to the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction. Leaving the matter to the Director involves much difficulty. At the end of each year the Principal of each college would determine the number of students for free-studentships and there will be a lot of correspondence which may end in failure. I would agree to fix the maximum at five per cent if that would be acceptable."

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I accept this modification of the present position."

Leave was granted and the resolution withdrawn.

6 . 2 . 1920

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SECONDARY EDUCATION

7. The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das moved the following resolution :—

Resolution regarding earmarking a portion of funds for expansion of secondary education from the funds allotted for primary education.

"That this Council recommends to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that out of the lump grant of Rs. 87,000 for the expansion and improvement of primary education, Rs. 20,000 be allotted for the promotion and advancement of secondary education."

He said :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I do not think I should speak much to persuade the Council to accept my resolution which only proposes to place at the disposal of the Director of Public Instruction a sum of Rs. 20,000 to be spent on secondary education out of Rs. 87,000 allotted by the Finance Committee for the expansion and improvement of primary education. I was present in the Finance Committee when the allotment was made. I trust the members would have accepted my proposal if I would then place it before them. But the necessity was suggested to me afterwards.

"I yield to none in my anxiety for the spread of primary education in the country. But any one who is in close touch with the feelings and wishes of the mass of our people knows it very well that primary education is not much sought for its own sake. There is a demand for Middle English Schools in many places. Most people do not consider primary education as of any value to their boys if they are to close their education at that stage without further advance into schools where English is taught. I am sure the Government are aware of this fact, as was evident from their reply

to a question of mine on the subject in the Council last year. To satisfy this popular desire the Government then promised that they would include in the budget provision for grants to two new middle English Schools in each Division next year. I trust that has been done. But two middle English Schools in a Division will not meet the requirements. There should be an annual addition of two schools in each Division for some years to come. Our secondary schools are yet very few in number. Though there has been an increase of expenditure on secondary education, both Government Schools, general, and grants-in-aid, from 3, 68 to 8,05 during the last 8 years, it has not resulted in an adequate increase in the number of schools, as the greater part of the funds has been devoted to the addition to the staff and improvement of pay. The transfer of control of middle English schools from local bodies to the Government has thrown new responsibilities on the department. The Director should be in a position to discharge these responsibilities to the satisfaction of the wishes of the people. It is very encouraging, however, that private efforts are being made at several places of the province to start either middle English or high English Schools. The organizers would naturally approach the department for aid. It is necessary and desirable that a lump provision should be made which the Director may use at his discretion to help such private efforts for the advancement and promotion of secondary education. I trust in recognition of the increasing demand for secondary education, the Council will accept this resolution."

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"I accept the assurance given by the Hon'ble Member."



The resolution was withdrawn.

13 . 3 . 1920

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PATNA UNIVERSITY

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das ;--

"YOUR HONOUR,

Resolution recommending the Govt. of India to provide fund for the establishment of Patna University moved by K. B. Khwaja Muhammad Nur.

"As I think there will be no voting on this resolution and as Your Honour has left to the non-official members its discussion, the result of the discussion having to be submitted to the Government of India, I think it is my duty to express my views on the subject. In the first place I whole-heartedly support this resolution. My next submission is that when a child is born, he is to be nursed for five years of its existence, the next ten years are the period of training, and when the child reaches sixteen years he is to be treated as equal. This province is now in the eighth year of its existence and we have still eight years before us before we are expected to be treated on an equal footing with the other provinces of India. We are the creation of the Government of India, I should say the creation of His Gracious Majesty the King Emperor. It deserves nursing : it deserves proper training. If the Government of India do not consider it to be their duty to give this province proper education and training, I should submit that the Government fail in their duty."

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

30-7-1920

FLOOD AND RELIEF

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das moved the following resolution;

Resolution regarding raising of funds in respect of famine relief.

"That this Council recommends to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that the provincial share of the provision for the Famine Relief be raised from Rs. 19,000 to Rs. 50,000 and that a corresponding deduction of Rs. 31,000 be made from expenditure under 20 police."

He said :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I do not know, Sir, if it has over been the misfortune of any non-official member of this Council to move a resolution like this since the creation of this province. Non-official members generally urge for sanitation, education, and for such other matters as help the progress and advancement of the people. But what would education or sanitation mean to a people that has no food to eat, no clothes to wear and even no hut to live in. Famine is a terrible thing. To think of it is painful, to speak of it is grievous and to live in it is fatal. But, alas : hundreds of my people are struggling under its terrible grip for over a year. Coming as I do from a part of the country where some tract or other is liable to flood or drought almost every year, I am not easily moved by the effects of an ordinary scarcity which it is very hard for people under more favoured conditions to bear. I would not have brought this motion before this Council were I not forced to do so by the painful necessity of circumstances.

"During the year which is about to close, famine has been declared only in three districts and the revised expenditure on Famine Relief has been estimated at Rs. 7,80,000 though Rs. 16,00,000 has been provided in the budget for the purpose. The Government may congratulate themselves upon being able to avert the danger with less than half the estimated cost. But I may be excused if I say, and I say deliberately, that the measures taken for the relief of famine have not been on the whole adequate to meet the situation; may, with regard to certain areas the Government have hitherto failed in their duty to the people in distress. There have been places where distress has been so acute that nothing short of full famine relief measures would give adequate relief to the distressed. While I say this I have particularly in my mind the parts of the Puri District which I have myself seen.

"The Hon'ble, the Finance Member, in fixing the expenditure for famine relief in the next year's budget at Rs. 75,000 says, 'The rice crop of the current year is a bumper one and it is not anticipated that any famine relief will be necessary next year'. Evidently the condition of the flooded areas in the Puri District, I am afraid, has not yet been brought home to the Government. I submit Sir, relief measures in that area have long become necessary, and are necessary now when conditions in other parts of the province have changed. The Commissioner of the Orissa Division, the Hon'ble Mr. Gruning, recently paid a visit to these parts for which I am thankful to him. I am told he has seen only the fringe of the distressed tracts and could not make it convenient to visit the tracts worst affected where he was eagerly expected. I trust, however, that the little he has seen must have convinced him of the gravity of the situatihn, and it is earnestly hoped that, as the result of his visit, famine will be declared in those areas. Better late than never.

"Now permit me, Sir, to say a few words to justify the contention that I have all along been making for the declaration of famine in the Puri District. At the outset I would assure Your Honour and the members of the Council that I am always careful not to exaggerate things, especially in grave and serious matters like famine. Nor is my experience of famine conditions new. During the last twelve years I have had the experience of distresses on two occasions, in the subdivisions of Kendrapara and Jajpur of Cuttack in 1907, and in the Chilka areas of the Puri District in 1917. I never urge any point of which I am not myself convinced; for, I always believe that in public life as in all other spheres of activities truth and sincerity are the only invincible forces which win. The conditions of some of the villages of the flooded areas are such as many of the members of this Council will not easily imagine. Ever since November 1918, when the gloomy prospects were clearly visible, I have been putting questions on this subject in almost all the meetings of the Council. Resolutions in public meetings have been passed; graphic descriptions of the conditions of the people have appeared in the press. Even the Utkal Conference, the National Assembly of the whole Oriya people moved the Government in the matter. But all to no purpose. Conditions are growing worse every day. I quote below one of the paragraphs that appeared in the papers. It described the conditions as they were in October last.

"In many places the worst has come at last. What was but an apprehension has become a reality. The mother is snatching away the morsel of food from the child. People under the pang of hunger have eaten fruits, roots, and leaves which were never used as food. These, too, have become scarce now. In affected areas, specially in flooded tracts, distressed people are moving about every-where in mere skeletons appearing at every moment to fall down. They look like fearful spectres. Some of them are falling down dead. Such dead bodies

are to be found along the roadsides. Many are committing theft in expection of being better fed in the jail. People do not get food to buy. Those that have still some strength to work do not find labour. The mother has left her child and the husband his wife. Many have fled away, nobody knows where. Every one is now for himself. Little orphans are seen here and there under the grip of death. The terrible scenes of the great Orissa famine of 1866 have been repeated in several places".

"This description is true to the letter. I bear testimony to it. Had the Government complied with the request made by the Utkal Union Conference to depute some responsible officers to co-operate with the non-official members of the committee appointed by the Conference to enquire into the actual state of things, I am sure there would have been no room for Government to doubt or dispute the correctness of this description. Since these paragraphs appeared in the papers, conditions have grown still worse. Some villages have practically been deserted. The number of deaths is increasing. Whatever cause might be assigned to these deaths by the local officers, it can be stated with perfect certainty that most of them are due directly or indirectly to want of food. These facts will be brought to light in detail when the result of the non-official committee appointed by the Conference will be published. I have, however, to acknowledge the co-operation of the District Officer, Puri with the non-official gentlemen in organizing private relief measures which, inadequate as they were, gave some help to the people who were in sore need of it, the subscriptions from outside and specially from the Hindi Natya Parishad and the Oriya Samaj of Calcutta, as also from the Provincial Famine Relief Fund. But all these did not go a great way in alleviating the miseries that are so wide and intense. The private source of help has

practically ceased to exist. Government help has now become more absolute and urgent than ever.

" I do not wish to take up the time of the Council for any further detail. After I sent notice of this resolution, I visited some of the affected villages on the 8th instant with a view to making myself perfectly certain of the grounds which I should have to urge. I went into some houses. A year ago they were in good condition. The householders were known as well-to-do people. Now they have become absolutely destitute. I could find nothing on which they can lay their hands for their maintenance. Lands they have sold or mortgaged, utensils and ornaments they have already parted with, cattle they have lost. If they have still anything left, it is because they could not find buyers. I have brought some samples of their foodstuffs which I found in one of the houses I visited. Here I place them on my table. This specimen with green leaves is a kind of herb which nobody would ever use as food. The powder is made of husks with some particles of rice. The food which they take once a day and often at longer intervals, is prepared by boiling the herb with the powder. Many cannot afford to add a little salt to it. When this is the condition of those who were the families of fair competency in the village only a year ago, the sufferings of others might be more easily imagined than described. I have also in my table a photo of a group of famished people. It was taken in a village near Gop early in January last. It will speak for itself. If conditions like these do not constitute famine I do not know what famine is. I leave the matter to the judgment of YOUR HONOUR and of this Council.

"Even after all this I cannot lose faith in the goodness and wisdom of a Government presided over by a considerate and popular administrator like Your Honour. Let the dead past bury its dead." Pray, have merey on those that survive. It is their due.

Let me hope and trust that famine will be declared. In that case larger expenditure will have to be incurred. If the provincial share of the famine be raised to Rs. 50,000, the total allotment on that head, including the Imperial share will come up to two lakhs, with which the situation may be fairly met. My suggestion is that a corresponding deduction of Rs. 31,000 may be made from the head Police. If proper relief measures are organized in famine-stricken areas of the Puri Distirct there is no doubt that crimes will decrease in that area. In other parts of the province economic conditions have also improved. So we can do next year with less police force. Under the sub-head Special Police Force 20-D the provision for mounted military police has risen abnormally high, from 22 in the revised to Rs. 80,875 in the estimate for the next year. The detective training school may be postponed for a year. Thus Rs. 31,000 may be deducted from different items of the head Police without impairing the efficiency of the department. I anticipate the objection of the Hon'ble the Finance Member that I did not raise the question of famine relief in the Finance Committee. It was, however, raised by my Hon'ble friend Mr. S. K. Sahay. I did not press the point then, as I knew my proposal would not be acceptable on the ground that there was no definite scheme before the Government for famine relief operations in any area. Now the visit of the Divisional Commissioner to the distressed parts has given me hope that the matter will be sympathetically and carefully considered. And as a member of Your Honour's Council bound by solemn affirmation to faithfully discharge the duties on which I have entered, I consider it my duty to avail myself of this opportunity to plead the cause of the suffering humanity in that ill-fated tract which I represent.

"With these words I commend this resolution to the acceptance of the Council".

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I consider myself called upon to meet the points that have been raised by the Hon'ble Mr. Gruning. It is not my wish to differ from any member of the Government unnecessarily. I wish I could see with him eye to eye. I know the situation which it has been my misfortune to describe in the Council in the way I have done. I have been to the famine areas four times. Mr. Gruning has been there only once, and that only the other day. I was glad that the Hon'ble Mr. Gruning came to the spot at last. That visit was long expected there. I wrote to the Hon'ble Mr. Gruning from Calcutta asking him to make it convenient to go to the worst affected parts. I regret I could not make time to be present there, because I had business here at Patna. On my return from here, I went straight to the spot. I heard Mr. Gruning went only to the places that were just on the fringe of the affected area."

The Hon'ble Mr. Gruning :—

"May I speak a word by way of explanation ? I had intended to go to the villages which the Hon'ble member told me were the worst affected. I only got as far as thana Gop, as I have already told the Hon'ble Member. The reason was that after I had made all my arrangements, that very night there was a heavy thunder-storm and the roads beyond thana Gop were extremely bad. It took me over two hours to motor the short distance from Khurda to Gop, and it was with the utmost difficulty that I got there at all. That is the only reason why I did not go further on. I should have visited all the villages, but I had not the time to do it, and it was only the thunder-storm that prevented me".

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"I did not mean to find fault with the Hon'ble Mr. Gruning.

His Honour the President :—

"The hon'ble member would please confine himself more closely to the subject matter of the resolution. I allowed him great latitude in his speech when moving the resolution, but we cannot have a prolonged argumentation as to the exact extent to which famine prevailed last year or the adequacy of the measures taken to cope with it. The resolution before the Council is to raise the provision for famine relief in next year's budget from Rs. 19,000 to Rs. 50,000/- and I hope the hon'ble member will confine his remarks to that particular question".

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"Am I to understand that I will not be given an opportunity to say whether my picture has been overdrawn or anything of the kind when the Hon'ble Mr. Gruning has raised these points. Will Your Honour be pleased to say ?"

His Honour the President :—

"I would ask the Hon'ble member to be as brief as possible."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"Well, if the picture was overdrawn or under drawn or not properly drawn, it would have been decided, as I have said in my speech at the outset, beyond all doubt, if the Government had deputed some responsible officer to co-operate with the non-official

members of the Committee. It was with that object in view that the non-officials of the Committee requested the Government to depute some officers to co-operate with them. That would have made matters clear. The Hon'ble Mr. Gruning says that Babu Jagabandhu Das told him that only 2,000 men deserved gratuitous relief. I saw Jagabandhu Babu on my return from here and he said that the villages that he himself visited contained 2,000 men that would deserve relief, thereby meaning that in the whole area there would be larger number deserving of relief. That is the information that Jagabandhu Babu gave me. Well, it is said that three unions are affected".

The Hon'ble Mr. Gruning :—

"Five Unions".

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"Well, five unions. I am not definite about the number of unions that are affected. But in answer to a question of mine in the Council the information that I was supplied with justified me in saying that in three thanas nearly 250 villages are more or less affected. Of course there is no use discussing over a matter on which the officials and an humble non-official like myself could not come to a definite agreement, especially when people are dying. I have seen things with my own eyes and I cannot disbelieve my senses. Beyond this I cannot say anything. The Hon'ble Member in charge has given me assurance that money will be found if a proper case would be made out for the declaration of famine. Declare famine or not but save the human lives there. That is my earnest prayer. The Hon'ble Mr. Gruning has said that everything that could be done has been done and is being done. All right, I do not find fault with the Government officers for what they have done, but I urge for what

they can do even now. Well it is said that only a small tract in a little district is affected and for this there is no reason that in the provincial budget the expenditure should be raised. But it does not matter whether it is a little tract or a big tract. If any human being in an unknown corner of this province within the great empire of His Majesty dies for want of food, I think that his blood will be upon me and upon all those who are directly or indirectly responsible for conducting the administration. With these words I leave the matter in Your Honour's hand".

His Honour the President :—

"Do I understand that the Hon'ble member accepts the assurance of the Hon'ble Member in charge that whatever money is needed for famine relief will be provided, or does he wish to press the resolution to a division ?"

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"I accept it".

The Resolution was withdrawn.

13-3-1920

FLOOD-APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das:

"YOUR HONOUR,

On the resolution of Shri Braj Sundar Das recommending the Govt. for appointment of a Committee to enquire into condition of flooded and unprotected areas of Orissa Division.

"The resolution is on a subject which affects very vitally a large majority of the population in Orissa and in which I, as one having suffered seriously from the effects of floods and having worked in some of the heavy floods that have taken place during the last twelve or thirteen years, feel myself deeply and anxiously concerned.

"I have myself seen with my own eyes and have worked in the disastrous floods of 1907 which made desolate a vast tract of country in the Kendrapara and Jajpur subdivisions of the Cuttack district. The effects of flood in the Puri district last year are, I think, too well known to the Government and to the members of this Council; and the people of that unfortunate tract are still suffering untold miseries from them. I am coming here straight from another terrible scene which the heavy and unprecedented floods in the Brahmani and Kharsuan rivers in the Cuttack district have created only last week. The entire tract in that district is now a vast sheet of water which rendered the situation for the first three or four days quite hopeless, as it was almost beyond all human efforts to give any assistance to the unhappy sufferers. I am sure the Government have received by this time information about this flood, but the extent of the area under flood is so wide and the devastation caused so great that I am afraid accurate information has not yet been obtained. I do not however wish to give a description of what I have seen, lest I may be charged with presenting to the Council an over-

drawn picture, but I can emphatically assert that the loss and disaster caused by the floods-I speak of heavy and serious floods and not of ordinary ones-cannot be too highly exaggerated. At any rate it has to be admitted that the question of flood in Orissa is one about which we cannot be too anxious and attentive. I do not mean to suggest that the Government have been totally indifferent with regard to the question. Ever since 1830 a little over a quarter of a century after the British occupation of Orissa, when the embankments were placed under the charge of the Public Works Department, the matter has been receiving attention of the Government from time to time. The resolution of the hon'ble member asks for the appointment of a committee of inquiry into the conditions of the flooded areas. The inquiry asked for will not be a new thing. Such inquiries have been made by individual officers and by committees especially appointed for the purpose, and it cannot be said that they were in vain. I would rather say that, as the result of these inquiries, the canal system in Orissa has come into existence whereby quite a large tract of the country has been protected. If the protective works, which were so wisely and benevolently undertaken, were extended to the other unprotected parts of Orissa, as was contemplated in the original proposal, the liability of the delta to inundation would have been considerably minimized. From the reply to a question of mine in this Council last year, it appears that nearly one-fourth of the cultivable areas in the three coast-districts of Orissa are unprotected. The Government were not very definite in their reply, and from what I have seen of the districts of Puri and Cuttack during the last two years, I may safely say that the area is much larger. The liability of such a vast tract to annual devastation and ruin is bound to cause grave anxieties not only to the people but also to their administrators. It is obvious that the well-being of a mass of our people and the security and increase of revenues in an agricultural country like ours depend

almost solely upon the success with which this devastating force of nature is restrained and controlled. Opinions will no doubt vary with regard to how the control might be effected. As a matter of fact, there have been such conflicting opinions with regard to the embankments in Orissa during the last forty years. Some engineers say that the embankments should all be demolished or abandoned; the Revenue Officers in charge of the Settlement do not quite endorse this view, while the lay public, who are the real sufferers, cannot persuade themselves to believe that such a sweeping step, which on the very face of it appears to be fraught with serious danger, would bring them any relief and protection. But, all the same, the administrator on the spot has to face the grave situation caused by floods, almost year after year. Now the question is whether this state of things should be allowed to go on. I submit, Sir, that the time has come when strenuous efforts should be made to set the question at rest. I may however state here with a sincere feeling of regret that of late years the subject has not received as much thought and attention from Government as it deserves. In 1900 Mr. Inglis writes in his reports: 'It cannot be said that anything has yet been done to save the Puri district as a whole from the liability to inundation. It is recorded that in 1866 the effect of the flood in the southern part of the Puri district was increased by the fact that the outlet from the Chilka lake to the sea had been closed by a sand bar., And the same learned engineer expressed a wish, 'It is improbable that this would accrue again without being noticed and remedied in due time'. But the opening of Chilka mouth is still a question and I think the difficulty is still there. What Mr. Inglis said with regard to the Puri District may be said with equal force with regard to the other unprotected parts of the Orissa Division which lie exposed to the ravages of flood and are liable to danger, on account of the protective canal system over the continuous areas. Now that the settlement operations are

to be undertaken in Orissa, the question of protection of cultivable areas should demand careful consideration of the Government. I think the subject has been placed before the Council just in time. My friend the hon'ble mover does not suggest any definite course to be adopted. All that he wants is an inquiry into the matter so that a satisfactory solution may be reached, on which the safety and well-being of the unfortunate millions of Orissa and future financial improvement of that Division so vitally depends. With these few words, Sir, I lend my earnest support to the resolution and I sincerely trust that in view of the importance and urgency of the situation, and the good which a successful protection from flood is sure to bring to the people and to the State, the Government will not fail to appoint a committee on which, I may suggest, the authoritative experts, practical administrators, and the suffering people should be represented.

"Before I sit down, Sir, allow me to say that the question of flood is a life and death question to us. Officers who have not been in Orissa and non-official members who have not seen the suffering of the millions of our people in the flooded tracts do not realise the difficulties under which we have to work. As a matter of fact, owing to flood and owing to the condition of the famine, my race is gradually going to be extinct. I may draw Your Honour's attention to the vital statistics that are appearing from month to month from the Sanitary Boards' office. From that it will be seen that in the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore-Angul also may be included, though the condition of that district is different with regard to flood from those three coast-districts-the death rate is more than double. I once calculated the figures, taking those that are leaving the country for wages to distant places, most of whom are not likely to come back. I am afraid within the next thirty-five years this country will be entirely depopulated. Is Your Honour's Government

going to allow an ancient country like ours to be so depopulated, to be so devastated year after year by this calamity. I sincerely hope the members of this Council and Your Honour's Government will fully sympathise with us in our difficult situation. Help us, or we will die. Let not this be the last cry of a dying swan, 'We die, save us'. When I say this I speak out the minds of thousands of people that are still suffering in the Kendrapara and Jajpur subdivisions, in the flooded areas of the Puri district and on the banks of the Subarnarekha and the Salandi rivers. I am speaking the mind of these unfortunate people. Either hear them, or let them die"

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30-7-1921

FLOOD-SURVEY OF WATERWAYS

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das moved the following resolution : —

Survey of water-ways in Coastal Orissa.

"That this Council recommends to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that a comprehensive survey of the water-ways in the coast-districts of Orissa be made with a view to devising measures for the proper drainage of the country whereby the destructive effects of inundation might be mitigated and the sanitary conditions in the rural areas might be improved".

He said :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I am afraid, on a mere statement of this resolution, some of my friends here may be inclined to think that having seen the fate which the resolution of my friend the Hon'ble Babu Braja Sundar Das practically on the same subject met at the last meeting of the Council, I should have been better advised not to move my resolution so soon. But, Sir, the subject is of so vital importance to the people of Orissa that its discussion cannot be too often initiated. Since the last meeting of the Council I have made a tour in parts of the flooded areas of the Cuttack and Puri districts. It was in the midst of the scenes of havoc and desolation in these affected areas that I decided to take the last chance in the life of this Council to urge once more upon the Government the necessity and desirability of further consideration on the subject of flood and inundation which, as I have often said, is the life and death problem to the millions of people living in the deltaic tracts of Orissa.

"The object of this resolution is to bring relief to the people from the disastrous effects of floods and of the insanitary conditions due largely to the want of proper drainage of the country. I sincerely trust Your Honour's Government and the members of this Council will be in full sympathy with this object. With regard to the insanitary conditions, I should like to say very briefly that in view of the appallingly increasing rate of mortality in Orissa urgent measures should be taken to improve the situation. Fever, malaria and such other diseases are gradually spreading in the coast-districts of Orissa where, a few years ago, they were quite unknown. They should be checked in the beginning, or in a few years hence the situation might defy all efforts. It goes without saying that by the adoption of measures for the proper drainage of the country, much improvement can be made in this direction.

"The effects of flood and inundation in Orissa are, I think, too well-known to every member of this Council. A passing glance over the flood-affected areas of that Division, even at the present moment after a month and a half has elapsed since the present calamity took place, will convince any observer of the extent of damage and destruction from which the people have suffered. Not only have the crops which were very promising this year been completely destroyed, but the fields have in places been Covered Several feet deep for many miles. Several houses have been washed away. The number of houses as given in the statement placed before the Council to-day is about 27,000 throughout the districts of Cuttack, Puri Balasore and Sambalpur. I am told over 50 per cent of the population have become homeless in the inundated tracts of the Cuttack district and from what I have seen of the villages I visited I have no reason to doubt this estimate. Many cattle were lost and those that could be saved had to stand in water for several days without any fodder. In these circumstances the miseries of the people can

be better imagined than described. While admitting that this year's flood is unusually high and has caused unusual difficulties and damage, I venture to say that such a state of things more or less happens in some parts of Orissa almost every year. Since 1907 there have been three high floods including the present one, each at an interval of about six years. Besides these there have been floods in other years, such as the one of the last year in the Puri district, which, though not so extensive, are not less harmful and disastrous to the particular areas affected.

"The effects of floods on the economic conditions of the country can be properly appreciated by an estimate of the damage they cause to the people in the loss of their paddy, house and other property. In the great flood of 1866, the loss in paddy only was estimated at over 90 lakhs of rupees. The loss by the present flood must be much larger. The Manager of Killah Aul, Mr. S. K. Agasti, in his notes on the Cuttack floods, just published, estimates the total loss in paddy for his Killah at Rs. 20 lakhs on a very modest calculation. The area of the Aul estate is about 88 square miles. The area of total loss of crop as given in the statement is 882 square miles. On the basis of Mr. Agasti's estimate, the loss in paddy alone for the whole of the flood-affected tracts in the different districts of Orissa would come to Rs. 200 lakhs. Add to this the damages the people have sustained by the loss of their houses, cattle and other properties. I am afraid this calculation would lead the most optimistic mind to a state of utter despondency and despair. In short, if there is one cause more than another responsible for the gradual impoverishment of Orissa and for the gradual physical deterioration and decay of its people, I would unhesitatingly point out to the floods. Rightly has Sir William Hunter said that 'Floods and Drought are the real calamities of Cuttack as of all the other districts of Orissa'. 'This statement is as true now

as when it was said more than half a century ago. Now, Sir, how long can a poor country like Orissa, which has to depend solely upon agriculture, stand under such circumstances ? I respectfully ask whether the force of nature should be allowed to commit the ravages it has been doing or whether anything should be done to bring it under control or at any rate to minimize the destructive effects it produces.

"It may be useful here to note some of the causes and circumstances which are said to increase the liability of the country to be flooded more frequently and to increase the duration of floods and their destructive character:—

"(1) The general belief among the people is that the opening of canals on one side of the river keeps the land on the opposite bank exposed to floods. As a matter of fact, the lands on the opposite side of the canal-embankments are not protected by any embankments, and the people of the unprotected side are not allowed to raise bunds over 3 feet high on their own private lands for the protection of their houses and fields on the ground that such bunds may affect the canal-embankment. (2). Some experts are of opinion that the embankment system was an initial mistake. The volumes of water do not find a sufficiently wide passage through the embanked channel of the river, and thus overflow the banks, rendering the river gradually shallow by deposit of siltand sand. On this point, Sir William Hunter says: 'Owing to a well-known peculiarity of alluvial rivers the water which is flooded down upon the plains greatly exceeds the volume which the lower channels are able to carry off. The rivers issue from the hills heavily laden with silt, which they deposit when the velocity is checked by the dead level of the delta. The beds thus get gradually shallow and prove more and more unable to carry off the floods to the sea, so that every year a large

quantity of surplus water pours over the banks'. (3) The mouths of some of the rivers and estuaries are said to have been blocked up with silt or sand, rendering the quick discharge of water extremely difficult, if not, impossible. Mention has been made in official documents of the closing of the mouths of the Chilka Lake. (4) Considerable portions of the existing embankment have been abandoned by the Government, and owing to their long disrepair the area which they used to protect has become more liable to be inundated. (5) Causeway and weirs have been constructed at several places on the embankments, i.e., the one at Achyutpur in the Puri District, and have been causing damage year after year. Large cultivated areas of the locality have become absolutely waste and desolate. I went to see the damage caused this year by the Achyutpur causeway to the neighbouring villages, a few days ago, and am convinced that a large number of people over a considerable area have been suffering for several years on account of this causeway. (6) Private proprietors or tenants often raise village embankments to save their own lands from flood. These embankments obstruct the free passage of water coming down from villages situated higher up. (7) Many old natural channels and distributaries of rivers are in course of time being filled up by their connection with the main river being discontinued and are gradually coming under cultivation.

"I do not, however, venture to express any opinion on these causes and circumstances which undoubtedly determine largely the course and action of floods and give in varying degrees causes of complaint to the people of the different localities concerned. But I submit, Sir, that they call for a careful examination which is absolutely necessary in any endeavour for the solution of the flood problem in Orissa. I do not suggest that definite action is to be taken with regard to the canal-embankment system. I do not say 'let all the canals

go and the canal embankments be demolished' nor do I press for erection of protective embankments on both sides of all the rivers throughout the country. All I want is a comprehensive survey of the whole situation by a body of able and experienced experts, with a view to collect materials for the formulation of a scheme of work which should be undertaken in a broad and liberal spirit of statesmanship to ameliorate the conditions of so many of His Majesty's loyal subjects.

"I admit, Sir, that owing to the peculiar situation of Orissa, floods are almost inevitable and the country has more or less been suffering from this calamity from time immemorial. But this is no reason which should exonerate the State from its duty to protect the people. Efforts have been made from very ancient times by Kings and Rulers of the province to combat the forces of nature to give safety and protection to the subjects under their charge. In the old archives of the Jagannath Temple we find Anangabhima Deb made large allotments in his budget for a protective embankment system. Centuries before him this policy was worked out by Markata Keshari who raised the monumental embankment to protect his capital town of Cuttack from the floods of the Mahanadi and the Kathjuri. The Moghuls and Marathas and the British Government have recognized their duty in this matter. Sir William Hunter observes : 'The peculiar position of Orissa has entailed special duties upon Government'. I am afraid in recent years the Government have not discharged these duties as sincerely and sympathetically as they used to do in earlier days of British occupation of the province. There had been long and careful inquiries into the flood question of Orissa by Committees and Commissioners with very eminent administrators and experts on them, and it has to be acknowledged with gratuitude that the results of such enquiries did better ensure the safety of the people and contributed towards the alleviation of their miseries. A long

time has elpased since these measures were taken. I hope the Council will agree with me that considerable developments have now taken place in the physical situation and circumstances of the country which need to be carefully examined.

" Sir, I do not ask for the appointment of a committee for this examination of the situation. I ask for a survey to be made by any competent agency as suggested by Sir Walter Maude in his reply to the resolution of the Hon'ble Babu Braja Sundar Das in the last meeting of the Council.But the procedure he suggests is to collect and utilize the necessary data for each particular area. I know Government have now adopted this procedure with regard to the areas between the Kushabhadra and Bhargabi rivers in the Puri District. But not only this area but several such areas in all the three coast districts of Orissa are suffering regularly and persistently from the devastations of floods. So my suggestion is that work which is at present being carried on in that particular area of the Puri district should not be done piecemeal but should be conducted on a comprehensive scale by a body of competent and responsible officers and be extended to other parts of Puri as also of the Cuttack and Balasore districts, so that the problem of flood in Orissa may be considered as one in all its bearings. Unless a comprehensive survey is made of the entire delta, it is possible that measures taken in a particular area of a district may act injuriously upon another area of the same district or of any other district. In this connection I may be permitted to quote the following from a letter of a former District Magistrate of Balasore embodied in the Statistical Account.

"The embankments on the other rivers are numerous but small and made without any reference to any general system of protection from floods. If they do good to the village in which they are situated, they

often do harm to the villages on the opposite bank by throwing the set of the current on to the other side. A general scheme of embankments having reference to the whole district instead of as at present for the benefit of particular villages or landholders is urgently needed. The obvious plan would be to secure as straight a course as possible for the water from the hills to the sea so that it may run off quickly and not be driven from bank to bank and impeded at every turn."

"The policy which is suggested in this quotation for Balasore should, I venture to submit, apply to the entire deltaic tract of the three districts. Your Honour, my resolution makes a very modest request which has in fact been partly anticipated by Government in the measure they have already taken with regard to the particular area of Puri district. I simply ask for the extension of that measure to the three coast - districts. I hope Government will have no objection to comply with this humble request. I have only to say that from the statement made in Sir Walter Maude's reply I have alluded to, it appears that the work may not be done with that degree of promptitude and zeal which the situation demands, but unless Government move in the matter in good right earnest and take some immediate action on a comprehensive scale, they will cause a feeling of serious disappointment and I may say, of deep discontentment to grow among the people. The measure I suggest in the resolution is but preliminary to a definite scheme of alleviation which should be adopted without much loss of time. I earnestly trust, if the resolution is accepted, it will bring health and plenty to thousands of people now struggling in disease and distress."

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The Honable Babu Gopabandhu Das:—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I did not intend to speak on this occasion. I am a man who is not much given to speaking, but on the present occasion I feel very deeply both on my own behalf and as a representative of the people of Orissa. I feel greatly indebted to Your Honour for the kindness and sympathy that your Honour showed to me in appreciation of my educational endeavours in your personal capacity. I feel deeply for your appreciation of my honest endeavours in the interests of the suffering people of Dabhar and other villages that Your Honour was pleased to visit. It is not I who speak; I speak for those who suffered; I speak for those in whose sufferings Your Honour's sympathy has been a solace and comfort. It is not the time to recount all the works of administration tha Your · Honour has done. The present is not the occasion for all that. I feel very deeply. I shall ever remember with a sense of gratitude the associations that we were connected with Your Honour."

10.9.1920

REVIVAL OF THE SALT INDUSTRY IN ORISSA

RESOLUTION

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das moved the followiog resolution:—

"That this Council recommends to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that the Government do take necessary steps to revive the salt industry in Orissa."

He said:—
"YOUR HONOUR,

It is not, Sir, in a spirit of opportunism that I wish to approach the Government in this matter. Before the problem of salt pressed itself upon the attention of Government and of the people, and long before the present rise in price affected the poorer sections of the community, the question was being agitated in Orissa, both in the press and on the platform. The Utkal Union Conference adopted resolutions on the subject in its annual sittings; local papers have repeatedly discussed the question in their columns; and if my information be correct, people of the localities directly affected by the closure of the industry, have often approached the authorities in the matter. In my budget speech last year I touched on the point in the hope that it would receive the attention of Government. Coming as I do from a part of the province where the great body of the people has to struggle in extreme poverty and where floods and droughts add to their miseries by causing frequent failure of crops, I look upon the establishment of an industry in Orissa as an economic necessity. The Resolution, Sir, does not propose to introduce a new industry. It does not ask to encourage an old industry which is still living. It recommends the Government to take steps for the revival of an industry which once flourished but is now

no more. The people do still cherish its memory; the fields of its operation are still there; men who worked at it are still living, and in their perpetual poverty and misery draw a heavy sigh over the scenes, talking of the busy time they spent there in their youth, looking at the great bue that once supplied them with materials to work upon, a .d still presents an inexhaustible store for their labour and enjoyment.

"Now, Sir, the question would be, if the salt industry did once flourish on the Orissa coast, how did it disappear ? An examination of the causes and circumstances that led to its stoppage is necessary before any step is taken for its revival. For it is to be ascertained that, if revived, the industry has a chance to stand.

"The salt industry in Orissa has a long history of a sad and chequered career. Salt was manufactured from time immemorial along the extensive sea-board of Orissa. When the British Government took possession of the province in 1803, the manufacture was in the hands of the Rajas and Zamindars who had coast ar as included in their estates. The Government introduced the monopoly system throughout the Orissa coast in 1804. The system was thoroughly organized in 1831 and continued till 1863, when it was abandoned in favour of the excise system. The excise system afforded scope for smuggling and the monopoly system was again resorted to by the Madras Salt Department to which the industry in Orissa was transferred from Bengal in 1888-89. It was not long under Madras; some time after its transfer there was a long correspondence for its re-transfer to Bengal, which was effected in 1898, the year in which salt was last manufactured in Orissa.

"Transfer, re-transfer, uncongenial and unwilling combination has always been the fate of Orissa, with absolutely no regard for its needs and local conditions.

Orissa salt was placed under the Bengal Salt Department from the beginning. The duty on Orissa manufacture was at the Bengal rate. It was 8s. 8d. per cwt.-much higher than the Madras rate which was 4s.10d for an equal quantity. Sir William Hunter observes 'Now there can be no doubt that the Bengal rate presses more heavily upon the backward and comparatively poor districts of the Orissa delta than any where in Bengal itself. It there is any single spot in India in which the maximum duty bears too heavily on the people it is Orissa."

"The method of production in Madras was Karkatch, that is by solar evaporation. In Bengal and in the adjoining tracts of Orissa, the method was Panga, that is, by boiling except in the Chilka areas where it was Karkatch. Unfortunately Bengal officers tried the Panga system for some time in the Chilka areas. The Panga system is undoubtedly more costly. Thus the Madras salt had a double advantage over the Orissa salt-lighter duty and cheaper production. In the circumstances, Sir, not only smuggling and importation from Madras into Orissa became inevitable, but the exportation of Orissa salt was arrested. "Every year", says Sir William Hunter, 'the Tributary States and Central Provinces export large quantities of rice, grain, oil-seed, cotton and other rural commerce to the coast in exchange for salt. But the salt duty of Bengal and Orissa so greatly exceeds the rates in Madras that the peasantry of inner India find it cheaper to send their goods by a long costly land route to the Madras district of Ganjam on the south of Chilka than to float them down the Mahanadi to Cuttack on the Orissa side of the customs line.'

"As late as 1884 there was a rule in Orissa requiring the manufacturers to pay for the preventive establishment. Mr. H. W. Bliss, Commissioner of Salt Revenue, Madras Presidency in his special report on

Orissa salt in 1884 speaks of this rule as very severe. He says : 'It may safely be said therefore that the whole of the salt sold in Orissa during the time this rule, and its even more severe predecessors have been in force has cost the consumer at least two annas eight pies to three annas per maund more than it would otherwise have done. In other words, the people of Orissa have not only paid Government the duty on the salt which they consumed but have paid an additional tax amounting on the whole to the full cost of collecting that duty, from which the people of the rest of India have been exempt'.

"This differential treatment of the industry in Orissa and in its immediate neighbourhood in Madras greatly handicapped and discouraged the Orissa manufacture and caused it gradually to decline. Meanwhile, another force came into operation. Liverpool salt which came out at very low rates, 'often indeed as ballast' ousted 'the indigenous manufactured salt from Bengal markets'. By 1880 the industry became extinct in Bengal and lingered uncared for only on the distant Orissa coast. It is not improbable that the Bengal officers did not like the continuance of the industry in an extreme and by no means attractive corner of the province, and for want of strict supervision the excise system which was then working did not prove a success. The salt administration in Orissa was consequently tacked on to the Salt Department of Madras. Madras officers familiar with the Karkatch system in their presidency tried it in Balasore where for centuries past Panga was in operation. Thus Bengal officers tried in their day their familar method in Chilka where it was not suited and Madras officers in their turn experimented with their favourite process at a place where it would never work. This is but another instance of how the Orissa shore has often been used as a ground for administrative experiments.

"It could hardly be exp cted that the industry would prosper under Madras. The Orissa factories lying as they did at the tail end of the jurisdiction of the Madras Salt Department and outside the Presidency, did not receive proper supervision and care fiom the Madras officers who naturally attended more to factories situated in the Presidency under their immediate supervision. In many matters they had to wait for the sanction of the Bengal Government, and occasionally differences arose as is inevitable in all dual forms of administration. In June 1897 Mr. J. W. Simpson, acting as Commissioner of Salt in the Chhatrapur Division, wrote to the Deputy Commissioner of Salt, Madras : —

"The Malangiles have applied to the Bengal Government and are threatening a strike. It was really a difficult task for the Madras Officers to work the factories in Orissa on the monopoly system, not only owing to the distance which must have caused a good deal of inconvenience in those days rendering effective supervision almost impossible, but also owing to their ignorance of the Oriya language and the difficulties arising out of the double administration. In their Resolution No. 130 of the 25th March, 1891, the Madras Board of Revenue stated-'The Deputy Commissioner regrets to observe that ignorance of Oriya on the part of the departmental officers is one of the practical difficulties in the way of the successful working of the system of direct manufacture in Tua' (in Chilka). And the resolution further urged the necessity of the knowledge of the Oriya language for the under-officers. In these circumstances, Sir, Madras officers would be only too glad to get rid of this troublesome experience from their jurisdiction. Thus the poor Orissa factories were again thrown back upon Bengal at last. 'Like an unfortunate adopted child, it could find no shelter and sympathy anywhere, either in the north or in the south. Madras would

not like it, because it already had too many children of its own; Bengal would not keep it because it had lost all it had. Ultimately the child was suffered to die in an out-of-the-way corner of the Province in the recesses of the Chilka lake. After this need it be said that the salt industry in Orissa did not die a natural death ?

"I may now, Sir, be permitted to examine the grounds advanced by the local officers for the final closure of this industry. In 1901 there was an enquiry as to whether the manufacture could be revived. The result of the enquiry could very well be anticipated from the facts and circumstances I have already stated. It is an open secret that when the local officers of a department decide upon a course for some reason or other, grounds are never wanting to justify their position and support their views. It is this attitude of mind which often defeats the best intentions of Government. Mr. (now Sir) K. G. Gupta was Commissioner of Salt and Excise in 1901. He bases his report mainly on the opinion of Mr. Platts, then Assistant Commissioner of Salt Revenue, 24-Parganas and Midnapur. Mr. Platts gives different reasons for the failure of Panga in Balasore and Karkatch in Chilka. With regard to Panga he states. - 'For alimentary purposes the Panga system as followed in Orissa failed to produce good salt, because there was no way by which to eliminate the calcium and magnesium salts particularly magnesium sulphate". It should, however, be remembered that this Panga salt used to be manufactured along the entire sea-board of Orissa except the Chilka areas and it is with regard to this kind of salt that Mr. Sterling, the Commissioner of Orissa, observed in 1822:—'In this wild inhospitable tract, however, the finest salt of all India is manufactured, which under the monopoly system annually yields to the Government a net revenue of a little short of eighteen lakhs of rupees'. This finest salt of all India was largely con-

sumed not only in Orissa itself but also in Bengal and Chota Nagpur. It served the alimentary purposes for generations. Even admitting Sir, that there were these unwholesome ingredients in the salt, could they not have been eliminated by improved methods of manufacture if the situation were viewed in a spirit of sympathy and patronage for its betterment ? I do not, however, wish to examine Mr. Platts' other grounds with regard to Panga; for I propose now to confine myself to the Chilka areas where the manufacture may at once be advantageously started with the cheap Karkatch, and on the establishment of the industry there it will, I am sure, be extended to other salt-producing areas along the coast.

"About Chilka Mr. Platts states : —'Chilka factories will never be a success for they cannot compete against Madras salt'. Mr. Platts is indeed very flat but I hope to be able to show that Chilka factories, if properly managed and carefully supervised, will be a success, and can compete with Madras salt and that successfully. I myself recently visited two Madras factories in the district of Ganjam-one at Humma and the other at Surla. Humma, popularly known as Ganja , is only at a distance of six miles from Chilka and Surla is about 35 miles south from Humma. Mr. Platts says :—'Owing to the large influx of fresh water during the monsoon floods the brine of the lake is of less density than the brine of the sea, which supplies the Madras factories; so that whereas in Madras manufacture is started in January, in the Chilka lake the brine is useless till the end of March or the beginning of April,' This is truely very plausible but it is not warranted by the facts on record. The intensity of the Chilka brine is 3° and in some channels it rises to 4°, as was measured by Mr. C. W. D. Hay, another Assistant Commissioner of Salt, like Mr. Platts, at his inspection of the Chilka factories on the 24th April, 1868.

"The intensity of the brine at Humma is 3° and that at Surla 2.75° or nearly 3°. There is practically no difference between Chilka and the two Ganjam factories in the duration of the manufacturing operation. I select the two year 1895 and 1896 for the purpose of comparison between the Chilka factory and the nearest factory at Humma in Madras.

	Commencement of operation.	Commencement of scraping.	Closing
1.	2.	3.	4.
1895			
Humma.	January	February 25	June, 18.
Gurubai (Chilka)	January 3	March 4	June 22.
1896			
Humma	January	February 16	June 17
Gurubai (Chilka)	January 7	March 5	June 1.

"It is to be noted that the table relates to a time immediately preceding the closure of the industry in Chilka, when it was seriously neglected and was almost on the point of being abandoned for good. With better care and supervision the period would no doubt have been extended both ways. In 1917, the last working season at Humma, scraping and closing took place on March 13th and June 17th respectively. The above table taken from authentic records of the Department totally disproves Mr. Platts' emphatic assertion that 'in the Chilka lake the brine is useless till the end of March or the beginning of April'. An analysis of the composition of the salt of the Chilka factories and of the two neighbouring factories in Ganjam may be here instructive. The following table is taken from the reports of the Madras Salt Department of 1896-97 and may be advantageously compared with Mr. Ratton's analysis of sea salt averaged by nine specimens in his book 'Common Salt'.

Sources of supply	Insoluble matter		Sodium chloride	Magnesium chloride	Calcium Chloride.	Magnesium sulphate.	Calcium sulphate	Un accounted for
	Inorganic.	Organic.						
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
MADRAS								
Humma (Ganjam)	0.740	0.110	95.511	6.922		0.940	1.093	0.684
Surla.	2.670	0.060	94.127	1.449		0.711	0.972	0.011
CHILKA								
Gurubai......	0.954	0.074	92.985	2.970	..	0.626	1.944	0.455
-do-	1.410	0.110	94.936	0.898	0.574		1.604	0.468
Tua..........	2.590	0.140	94.980	0.342	0.485	..	1.225	0.238
-do-	1.690	0.110	93.678	1.813	..	0.033	1.944	0.732
Ratton's analysis of sea salt averaged by nine specimens.	1.364	0.122	86.137	2.005	0.438	0.416	1.610	

"Mr. Platts further states : —'Whereas in Madras the sky is clear and cloudless from January to the end of June, favouring manufacture, in the Chilka the thunderstorms of April and May repeatedly retard and destroy manufacture'. I submit, Sir, this statement is extremely vague and cannot stand a moment's scrutiny. The Madras Presidency extends in north not only to the brink of the Chilka but includes a portion of the lake within its boundary. There will be no thunderstorm at Humma because it is in Madras but it will destroy manufacture in Chilka six miles distant. No meteorologist can give any satisfactory reason for this difference, if it be not this that the elements and nature's forces look upon the rule of a Governor with greater consideration and awe than the administration of a Lieutenant-Governor.

"The distance of the Chilka factory from the railway station is made another reason. Of course some of the Madras factories may have an advantage over Chilka in this matter, but the advantage is not so real, as will be seen later on. Mr. Ratton in his book 'Common Salt' speaks of the Madras factories as follows 'The manufacturing season is supposed to last five months but many of the works are situated so far out of the stream of life and commerce as to be limited by what is called a dittum i. e., a small order for salt, calculated on the average sales of previous years, beyond which limit they may not manufacture. At many stations the limit is small, the salt-raiyats assemble for a couple of months in the hottest season, turn out the required quantity of salt and go back to their homes". If factories were started on this line not only in the Chilka but throughout the Orissa coast, Madras salt could never make its way into the province. All that is wanted is a steady consistent policy to be pursued in the belief that the industry which once proved successful may again be worked with advantage both for the people and the State.

"I am afraid, Sir, I have taxed the patience of this Council too much with detail:, but I hope Hon'ble Members will bear with me, if it be remembered that I am pleading the cause of the section of the community whose patience alone has kept them up through their constant misery and sufferings. Sir, when I look upon the extensive Orissa shore and think of the large quantity of salt of over 20 lakhs of maunds that it could annually produce and the wide market that the industry commanded in Bengal and the Central Provinces. far beyond the Feudatory States, and when I see the great body of labourers suffering year after year for want of employment and hopelessly leaving their wives and children, going out to Burma and Assam in quest of wages, I cannot but bewail the loss Orissa has sustained at the hands of officers who should have looked at the situation with sympathy, a liberal spirit and in a statesmanlike way.

'Men are we and must grieve when even the shade
Of that which once was great, is passed away.'.

"Last year I visited the Chilka areas when the people there were in distress owing to a total failure of crops. Such unfortunate occurrences are not very infrequent in these parts. On the coast areas of Balasore and Puri the mass of the people always live on the verge of starvation. Since the stoppage of the industry during the last 20 years there have been three famines each at the interval of 10 years around Chilka. We may call them famines, scarcity, distress, or pinch as we please, but that does not minimize the acuteness of feeling of the suffering and the distressed. Allow me, Sir, to take this opportunity specially to thank the Hon'ble Mr. Le Mesurier, then Commissioner of the Division, who personally visited the spot last year and saved the situation by adopting speedy measures for the relief of the people. The

Chilka areas are a problem to local officers. Sir K. G. Gupta recognised this in his report of 1901 when he said 'The revival of manufacture is not of pressing concern anywhere in Orissa except on the Chilka where its stoppage has caused considerable distress to the people." Mr. Garrett, then Collector of the Puri District, supports the proposal of revival. He says-'The revival of salt manufacture, if it could be brought about, would be of advantage to the people of this district, and I am in favour of it. It would be of special benefit to the inhabitants of the Chilka tracts where the crops are frequently liable to failure. Salt manufacture would also be a source of employment for the people during the hot weather months when work of any kind is very difficult to procure.' Various proposals have from time to time been made and discussed for the amelioration of the condition of the people. But any body who has thoroughly studied the condition of the locality will be convinced that the only way for improvement in these tracts is the revival of the manufacture of salt and the establishment of the fishing industry for which the place seems to have been originally populated.

"Sir, I have shown that the grounds for the stoppage of the manufacture were not real and sufficient. I have shown that the people are in sore need of it. I have shown that under equally favourable conditions Orissa salt, specially that of Chilka, would have kept back the importation of the Madras salt into the Province. Now I shall try to show what chance of success the industry has, if started in the Chilka areas. The salt-producing capacity of the lake is a historic fact. Mr. Platts himself admits that 'large quantities of salt used to be manufactured along the Orissa coast, the outturn of the Chilka lake alone amounting at one time over six lakhs of maunds." And it is on record that the annual yield of the lake in some years rose to nearly 10 lakhs of maunds.

The potentiality is still there, and if utilised to the fullest extent it would make Orissa self-helping and self-contained in the matter of its demand for salt. Even in the enquiry of 1901 the chance of Chilka was not declared utterly hopeless and Sir K. G. Gupta notes- 'The revival of manufacture is thus feasible only in the small area comprised in the Chilka where the conditions, though not very favourable, are not altogether inimical to karkatch manufacture.' The initial cost of opening the manufacture will not be much, for the salt pans and beds lie there too well marked and may be made ready for work with a comparatively small outlay. Labourers will not be wanting and may be had on cheaper wages. Men of the Chilka tract are now working in the neighbouring factory at Humma. They will gladly come back to fields close to their homes for less wages. And there are many without employment who know the process of manufacture.

"With these advantages on its side, the Chilka manufacture, if carefully conducted on improved methods, may be expected to be a success—at any rate it will not compare unfavourably with the manufacture of the neighbouring factories in Ganjam. At Humma the area under operation is 900 acres, and at Surla nearly 450. The annual yield per acre at Humma is about 800 maunds and that at Surla nearly 700. There is no reason why the Chilka factories, if properly managed, will not produce almost the same amount. To be on the safe side, the annual yield in an experimental factory at Chilka may be estimated at 400 maunds per acre. An experimental factory may be started over an area of 300 acres. It should be worked on the Government monopoly system, which when found successful may be followed by other people to whom it may appeal as a private enterprise to work on the excise system. Private capitalists should however be encouraged from the beginning to undertake the work side by side with the Government factory.

which may afterwards be leased out to private persons on such terms as may be then considered fair and necessary. I may be permitted to give here an estimate of expenditure and income of the experimental factory of 300 acres.

"Establishment :—

1.	Inspector	Rs. 300
3.	Sub-inspectors	Rs. 150
2.	Clerks	Rs. 50
1	Shroff	Rs. 15
6	Petty Officers	Rs. 60
20	Peons	Rs. 140
	Total	Rs. 715

"Thus the annual expenditure on this head will be Rs. 8,580 (This is a liberal estimate prepared in consultation with responsible officers at Ganjam factories).

"Cost of Manufacture : -

"In Madras factories, licensees under Government are paid Rs. 15 as kudiverum (their contracted wages) for each garce (120 mds.) of salt manufactured. These terms will be quite acceptable at Chilka.

"'Storage—

"The salt manufactured should be stacked for the convenience of merchants at a warehouse close to the nearest station of the Bengal Nagpur Railway which runs along the coast of the lake. Conveyance charges from the place of manufacture to the nearest station would be at most 6 pies per maund by boat. This is much less than what the merchants have to pay as cartage and railway freight for the articles of the

Ganjam factories to be brought to the station where our salt would be stored. It may be noted here that one of the Ganjam factories is 9 miles distant from the nearest railway station and the other is nearly two miles. Cartage alone from Humma to the Humma railway station is 6 pies per maund and that from Surla to the Ichapur railway station is 1 anna per maund. To this has to be added the railway freight from these two Ganjam stations to our station on the Chilka. Admittedly conveyance by boat is cheaper. This refutes Mr. Platts' objection on the score of distance.

"Out-turn—

"The experimental factory would yield on the modest computation of 400 maunds per acre (400 × 300) = 1,20,000 maunds

"Total charges		Rs.
Kudiverum for 1,20,000 mds.		15,000
Conveyance -do-		3,750
Loading, unloading and other miscellaneous—		2,000
Establishment (Pay of the staff)		8,580
	Total.	29,330
or in round figures	...	30,000

that is, 4 annas per maund ex-duty, the price ex-duty at which Chilka salt was issued from the factory in 1896-97, the year preceding its stoppage and in this year the percentage of charges to receipts in Orissa was 8.00. The above estimate excludes of course initial expenditure to be incurred for preparing pans and crystaellising beds and digging out-channels, building quarters and other such necessary preliminaries which for reasons already stated will not be very high".

His Honour the President :—

"I must remind the Hon'ble Member that he has only three minutes left in which to complete the delivery of his speech."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I hope, in view of the importance of the subject and its technical value, I may be allowed a few minutes more".

His Honour the President :—

"I regret that cannot be allowed as to make an exception in one case would make it necessary to allow it in every case in which it is asked for".

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das—continuing, said:-

"On the above calculation one maund may be sold at Rs. 1-8-0 at the railway station near Chilka. This gives a wholesale price of over 26 seers per Rupee whereas in July 1914 just before the war the average per Rupee in this Province was a little over 17 seers and that at the end of August last was 10 seers and 14 chattaks or very nearly 11 seers. The upset price of Ganjam salt per maund ex-duty is 3 annas, and it is under contemplation to raise it to 4 annas. But there the price always rises at auctions and sometimes comes up to Re. 1. This is at the factory and not at the railway station. Thus the business at Chilka may challenge competition with Madras factories and besides being self-supporting, it will bring in an annual revenue of Rs. 1,50,000 and also minimize the expenditure which has from time to time to be incurred on relief works during periods of distress.

"It may be said that revenue is no consideration in a matter like this, for salt is an imperial concern and salt duty is something like a capitation tax which must come to the State, no matter from what Province or source. But a prime necessity like salt ought to be supplied to the people as abundantly as possible, and experience has proved that abundance of supply and a reduction of price have always been followed by greater consumption and consequently by larger revenue. It has to be frankly admitted, Sir, and I believe the Hon'ble Members of this Council will agree with me, that the salt head in our Provincial Administration Report is sad and uninteresting reading. It is only a spending department in this Province, which has to maintain a preventive staff at the cost of nearly seventy thousand rupees a year, whereas on the income side a mean figure of two or three hundred rupees is seen noted as sale-proceeds of old stores and materials—sad irony of fate indeed for a Province with an extensive sea-board which in the early days of British rule brought in an annual revenue of nearly 20 lakhs of rupees. Need I remind this Council, Sir, that Orissa was joined, as was stated in the Government despatch, to Bihar only to present a sea-board to the Province ? If the statement in the despatch was seriously made and if the people were to believe that was really meant which was said, is it not desirable, is it not expedient that this extensive sea-board should be utilised to the best advantage of the Government and of the people ?

"When the sandy areas of the Puri shore now under Government khasmahal were sold by auction for arrears of revenue, no bidder came forward, as that was considered a useless estate. The then Collector Mr. Armstrong who is still remembered in the district as a strong and popular administrator, said on that occasion that the sands were not worthless but were sands of gold. How this prophetic observation has come to be true, any one who runs on the Puri shore

may see. What Mr. Armstrong said of the Puri shore may very well apply to the whole of the Orissa coast. It is one uniform field of gold and needs only the hand of faith and enterprise to bring out the treasure hidden underneath.

"As originally framed, my Resolution had another part which proposed that until the manufacture was started, the people living on the coast should be allowed to make salt free of duty for their domestic consumption. But this part of the Resolution had to be dropped advisedely as it would concern a financial arrangement of the Government of India. It was not my intention that the coast people would be entirely and perpetually free from duty. All I wanted was, that they should have some relief from their tantalising situation by putting into their use the materials which nature has supplied to them in abundance at their very door, until they are given an opportunity to work upon that material for the benefit of the State as well as their own.

"The manufacture was closed for no fault of theirs, nor were they consulted in the matter when they were deprived of their principal source of living. Most part of the Orissa coast lies at a considerable distance from the railway line and centres of trade. So the coast people have to pay more than those living in the interior away from the shore for this prime necessity of life. Now, as the price of the article has risen high, the burden falls on them more heavily than ever, and it should be noted that the coast people are poorer than their more favoured brethren in the interior, as their lands are practically useless for growing crops, so impregnated are they with saline ingredients.

"If no temporary concession of the kind I proposed can be given to these people, then it becomes

doubly imperative and necessary that the manufacture should be started at once. With the rise of price of the article the number of salt cases has increased at a rate which is almost alarming. In 1915-16 the number of such cases was 141 and in 1916-17, 241, as against 16 and 29 during the preceding two years. Is not this abnormal rise sufficiently telling ? It is not to be reasonably apprehended that we are nearing a situation similar to that of Bengal where Hat-looting has become so rampant ? God forbid that the loyal and peaceful masses in Orissa should be driven to such a state as to soil the fair name of their race for a little salt, the only sauce with their insufficient wet rice.

"The fines and forfeitures realised during the last two years amount to Rs. 141-12-0 and Rs. 781-6-0 of which Rs. 61-4-0 and Rs. 704-10-0 respectively were given to informers and apprehenders. And for this the Government have to maintain a preventive staff at a considerable cost of Rs. 70,000. Most of these cases occurred in Balasore and Puri where the coastal people are extremely miserable, and that shows the circumstances under which they were tempted to break the law. I would therefore beseech you, Sir, that you would give your serious consideration to the subject. Open salt works throughout the coast and no offence will be committed. Open fields for labour on the coast., and there will be no anxiety and trouble in case of failure of crops in the coast areas. As has already been quoted from Mr. Ratton's book, they have many salt works in Madras situated far away from the stream of life and commerce, where the salt raiyats assemble for a couple of months in the hottest season, turn out a small quantity of salt and go back to their homes. Can not this system be introduced into the Orissa coast for the benefit of the poorest of the poor of the community ?

"I have tried to show and I myself am convinced that salt manufacture on the Orissa coast, especially in the Chilka areas. will not be a losing concern. I am sure that if Government allow manufacture, private persons will come forward who should be encouraged to invest capital in the business by the tender of licenses in perpetuity or for terms of years subject to such conditions as the Government may under the circumstances consider it necessary and desirable to fix. By my suggestion of a Government factory I do not mean to establish the monopoly system. It should be only a small model factory to show private capitalists how the work ought to be done and managed economically and these private capitalists should be allowed to work on the excise system. As in many other fields of industry and agriculture, Government are working for the education of the people. I hope they will not hesitate to open the experimental factory which will in all probability have a financial success besides its educational value.

"If I be so fortunate as to secure the acceptance of this Council for my Resolution, if restrictions for the manufacture be removed and people be helped and encouraged to work the industry on payment of Government duty, I have no doubt that in course of time the Orissa coast will be studded with the salterns, big and small, which will convert the cheerless lonely shore into a busy sphere of life and activity. And the industry will in time grow like a cottage industry affording scope for the investment of their capital by men of small means, working individually or on co-operative lines. The revival of salt manufacture will also call forth the fishing industry which always goes with it as a twin sister. To me, Sir, the prospects of the Orissa coast look bright, its possibilities very vast and resources immense. I sincerely trust that the Government may also see them with the faith, sympathy and liberal spirit which so largely characterise Your

Honour's administration, so that a starving populace may be saved from ruin and may live in happiness and peace".

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"I am glad that the Government are greatly anxious for the development of the salt industry on the Orissa coast. I am gald that the miserable condition of the people is realised by the Government and that they are taking steps to see whether the industry would be a success and I hope it will prove to be a success. Under the circumstances I may be permitted to withdraw the Resolution."

Leave was granted and the resolution withdrawn.

13-9-1919

ON BUDGET

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

Re:—Budget (1917-18).

"It is not a customary congratulation that I offer here to the Hon'ble Finance Member on the well-considered budget he has presented to the Council, but I wish to express my sympathy for him in his difficulty in framing it under the Present financial conditions of the province which cannot be said to be very progressive or promising. The quinquennial review of the provincial finances made by the Hon'ble Member with his characteristic clearness and precision shows that 'our revenue since 1914-15 averages Rs. 24,28,000 in excess of our settlement standard and our normal expenditure, excluding any incurred on the High Court or the New Capital, Rs. 27,47,000 inspite of the fact that the latter has been reduced to the minimum on account of the financial stringency'. From this it is clear that it will be long before the Province can be financially self-contained no matter however great may be our solicitude to give it the character of a completely self-contained administration with its High Court, the Circuit Court and the University. True, the Hon'ble Member estimates 'for a further rise' in the revenue for the coming year, but reading between the lines of his statement, one is inclined to think that he does not feel the position very secure in view of the almost inexpansive character of the provin-

cial revenues. The Province has therefore to depend for its development and continued progress on the Imperial grants hitherto given in no stinted measure for which we have to be grateful. But as long as the war lasts any increase in the Imperial grants can hardly be expected.

"Although at a great distance from the scene of operations this country has been affected by the war in more ways than one, and it is well that it is so. For it has come to feel more than ever that it belongs to a world-wide Empire whose weal or woes it has to share and with which its destinies are indissolubly bound up. There has been an occasion for India to show its loyalty and devotion which is now established beyond doubt while a spirit of co-operation and feeling of solidarity has developed among the various parts of the Empire. Speaking of the people of Orissa, where the comparative absence of agitation may sometimes be calculated to minimize the value of their loyalty, I may be permitted to say that though smarting under a sense of disappointment in many of their hopes and aspirations under the new as under the old administrative arrangements, the Oriyas as a race still hold fast to their faith in the British sense of justice and fairness to which their silence is due, and while endeavouring in their humble way to do all they can for the stability of the Empire they wait quietly and patiently for a better treatment in future. The spirit which led the Hon'ble Mr. M. S. Das to move in the Imperial Legislative Council his resolution of loyalty calling upon the people of India to sacrifice for the sake of the Empire inspired also the unlettered peasants of Balasore to risk their lives in the interest of the Crown. This is the characteristic Oriya spirit. But it is an irony of fate that the enforcement of the Defence of India Act which was extended to Balasore to punish the offenders from outside should continue there as a blot on the fair name of an Oriya

district whose people helped in bringing those offenders to justice.

"On the reason of Orissa's name being joined as an equal partner with Bihar in the naming of the Province Your Honour's predecessor, Sir Charles Bayley, gave an assurance of equal treatment of Orissa with Bihar in his reply to an address to the people of Cuttack soon after the creation of the Province. But that assurance still remains a promise to be fulfilled. While thanking the Government for the recent affiliation of the Ravenshaw College in History upto the B. A. Honours standard, I have to say that their reply to my question regarding the establishment of B. L. and M. A. classes at Cuttack has caused great disppointment among the people of Orissa. The Ravenshaw College is the only institution of its kind in Orissa including the Feudatory States and the neighbouring Oriya-speaking tracts of the Madras Presidency-altogether a vaster area than Bihar. The suggestion that it will in course of time be made the centre of a University for all Oriyas, does not inspire much hope in the minds of the people who, to tell the truth, feel themselves neglected by the unequal and inadequate educational advantages now given to them in Orissa as compared with those in Bihar. It is a pity that the establishment of an Engineering School at Cuttack, which has been under the consideration of Government even before the formation of this Province and for which an Oriya Raja made a decent contribution some five years ago, could not be provided for in the budget as the sanction of the Government of India had not yet been received. I am afraid the wheel of administrative machinery moves very slowly with regard to Orissa. It would have been some consolation to the people of Orissa if the Sanskrit School at Puri, an ancient and time-honoured seat of Sanskrit learning, had been provincialised along with the Dharm Samaj Sanskrit School at Muzaffarpur.

"These and many others are the complaints of Orissa which I do not think it desirable to recount at a time like the present when the only universal complaint of the whole Empire is against the militarism of Germany for the suppression of which all our energy and attention should be directed. I may rather be permitted to take this opportunity to urge upon my non-official colleagues in this Council to do all in their power to make the war loan a success in a measure adequate to our love and devotion to the country and to the Crown. Here, as in many other matters of national importance, the poverty and ignorance of the great bulk of our people stand in our way. Very fe of the masses have cash money to depost, which has become more scarce on account of the depression in trade and fewer still can be made to understand the importance and advantages of the War Loan.

"Now more than ever has to be realized the necessity of a wider diffusion of education among the masses and the economic regeneration of the country. The Administration Report for 1915-1916 shows that the number of students represents only 16.07 of the total population of a school-going age in the British territory of the Province which is admittedly more advanced than the Native States. If the number in those States be taken into account the percentage will certainly go down. Need it be said that there is ample room for improvement ? The popular interests in the furtherance of the cause of education are daily increasing. I know sincere private efforts are being made at some places in Orissa to start High Schools but without sufficient help and sympathy from Government they cannot succeed. In this connection I cannot but admire the wisdom of the Finance Committee in placing Rs. 20,000 at the disposal of the Director of Public Instruction for the improvement of Secondary Education in the Province. It seems to me necessary and desirable that the Heads of the spending depart-

ments should be given some scope to move their hands with a little ease and freedom and for a freer exercise of their judgment and discretion. It has also to be acknowledged that the increase in the percentage of free-studentships will help a number of poor and deserving students in Secondary Schools, most of whom, but for this help, would have closed their educational career at an earlier stage, In this connection one fact presses itself upon our attention. It is the decrease by nearly 5,000 in the number of schools in the British territory in 1915-16 as compared with the previous year while there has been an increase in the average daily strength of the Jail population by more than 700 during the same period. We, however hope that in future years the reverse will be the case. Let then our motto be 'Open the school and close the Jail'.

"This increase in Jail population is no doubt due to economic causes and the unfavourable agricultural conditions have been put forth as the chief reason. In a vast territory such conditions are inevitable in different localities at different times. It is now high time that some counteracting measures should be adopted to give relief to the people. It cannot be denied that the decay of our cottage industries is mainly responsible for the economic degeneracy of our masses. This subject has already received the attention of Government as well as of the people in other provinces and it will not be a day too soon for our Government to move in the matter. Apparently the Industrial Commission which seems to be chiefly concerned with big factories and large industrial organizations, does not touch this question. The miserable lot of the country weaver, blacksmith, goldsmith or the shoemakers should be improved in his own cottage by improved methods of working in his paternal craft. The number of industrial and technical schools, as shown in the statement given in reply to a question of mine on the subject, cannot be sufficient for the Province and the

number is absolutely meagre for Orissa where there are only two such institutions.

"The effect of scarcity is generally aggravated by want of wages in the affected areas. The importance of turning the natural resources, if any, of any such area to open field for labour cannot be too highly over-rated. The advantages of many places on the Orissa shore for the manufacture of salt may be mentioned an an instance, and since its abolition, places like Parikud and Malud in Puri, Marichpur, Harispur in Cuttack, Basudeipur in Balasore and many such sea-side localities suffer from scarcities from time to time. The subject of salt manufacture is of course a question of Imperial concern involving many larger interests beyond the jurisdiction of our provincal Government. But in the interests of the labouring millions of the Province, an expression of opinion on the subject should go forth from this Government for the revival of this industry after a careful examination of the economic aspect of the problem.

"Before I conclude, allow me, Sir, to acknowledge the Imperial grant of Rs. 3,25,000 for the improvement of the pay and prospect of teachers of all grades in the Province and also the provision made in the budget for the Leper Asylum at Cuttack. As one connected with the Puri Leper colony and with an educational institution I appreciate the effect and importance of these allotments with a sense of personal gratitude and satisfaction. Be it for education or for sanitation, for a museum or hospital or for any other work of public utility, we have always to depend largely upon the help and co-operation of Government both Provincial and Imperial, which, it is hoped, will be freely given until the Province attains a state of existence full of vitality and strength, sufficient to establish the provincial autonomy which was the object in view at the time of its creation."

19-3-1917

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BUDGET FOR 1918-19

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I desire respectfully to associate myself with what has been said by my Hon'ble colleagues in appreciation of the Financial Statement which for the first time the Hon'ble Mr. LeMesurier has placed before the Council. Considering the limited scope within which the Hon'ble Finance Member was free to move, it is an interesting and well thought out budget which for its lucidity and clearness of exposition deserves our praise and admiration. We are still in the midst of the war and it is not known when our finances will be free from the stress and stringency it has caused. Conscious of the difficult and exacting character of framing the budget and wisely diffident of his powers to cope with the task under the present war conditions, the Hon'ble Member has to be congratulated upon his satisfactory performance. He is fortunate to assume office in a year which shows an expansion of our revenues.

"An attempt has for the first time been made to defend the financial position of the Province against the reproach so often cast calling it a 'deficit province'. The Hon'ble Member has shown an increase of nearly 34 lakhs in the provincial revenue since 1915-16. I yield to none in my solicitude to have the financial stability of the Province assured and established. But I am afraid the period of three years taken by the Hon'ble Member for the purpose of examining the situation is a little too short. Such an examination is, I think, necessary not so much to refute what others say of us as to know where we really are. The year 1915-16 taken as the starting point for the purpose of the above calculation has been the worst year since the formation of the Province as that year's revenue (Rs. 2,00,71,000) was the lowest

compared with the revenue of the three preceding and of the three succeeding years. In the year 1912-13 our provincial receipts amounted to Rs. 2,73,74,000. Since then they began gradually to fall. None of the four years that succeeded could give an equal amount of revenue. Only the year 1917-18 shows for the first time some increase on the first year's revenue. It is only by seven lakhs in the Revised of 1917-18. It is safe and prudent that for an accurate examination of the financial position the cost of the additional police to be quartered in the district of Shahabad should be deducted from the budget figure, as the Hon'ble Member has himself suggested. After such deduction the Budget revenue for 1918-19 comes to Rs. 2,86,00,000 in round figures showing an increase of only 6 lakhs over the Revised of 1917-18. and of 12 lakhs over the Actuals of the first year of the Province. The degree of expansion cannot be said to be very great. Let us, however, hope that, as in the life of every child, the first five years of this baby province were a period of risk and uncertainty when it could only be sustained with nutrition from the Imperial mother and that on its arrival in the sixth year of its existence it has outstepped that precarious state for the first time in 1917-18 which will open for it an era of steady progress and expansion.

"Our expenditure has no doubt been gradually increasing and under some heads, I am inclined to think, it has grown quite out of proportion. I take the expenditure under Police. Comparing the figures for 1912-13 and the Revised for 1917-18, we see the increase in expenditure under this head is close upon nine lakhs and a half whereas the increase in the revenue during the period is only seven lakhs as stated above. The charge under this head has also been increased in the present budget, though I admit this rise is due to the unfortunate contingency in Shahabad and Gaya. There will no doubt, be a very material reduction in this expenditure at the expiry of two years. But con-

sidering the rate at which the police expenditure is growing gradually year after year, it is not unreasonable to suppose that even after the reduction there may be on the whole an increase not justified by the increase on the receipt side. I do not mean to underrate the necessity and importance of the police upon which the safety of our life and property generally depends. But an ever increasing charge for the police upon a revenue which shows a very slow and small rise is not a matter of congratulation for the Government and for the people and will never satisfy those who so constantly and rightly press for the expenditure of the public money on useful public objects.

It may be told that since the creation of the province the expenditures on Education and Sanitation have also been going on increasing. I acknowledge this with a sense of gratitude. But I contend that the increase is due to the Imperial grants so generously made from time to time. If we take away these grants from the expenditures shown in the budget under the heads of Education and Sanitation, the actual charge on the purely provincial revenue will be seen to be comparatively low. The importance of education and sanitation for the well-being and advancement of the people and in the interests of administration is so obvious and paramount that they cannot be too sufficiently and successfully financed.

"I am glad that the Hon'ble Member has in a way lent his support to the maxim 'open the school and close the gaol' quoted in my last year's budget speech, when he justifies the increase of the police forces necessitated 'during the current year by the disturbances in the Orissa Feudatory States and in Shahabad and more recently in the Bhagalpur Division and generally wherever there has been excitement and unrest generally among simple and ignorant people." It is a mere truism which is always admitted but seldom acted upon

that our expenditure on Jails and Police would be minimised in proportion as we spend more and more for the diffusion of education among the mass of our people, for it is education which does really police the country.

"Now, Sir, in any discussion over the financial position of Government the condition of the people comes very pertinently under consideration. The present is a very critical time for our people who have now begun to feel the consequences of the war more seriously than ever. Owing to the want of rolling stock export and import have almost come to a standstill. Articles of prime necessity, e. g., cloth and salt are now selling at a price almost prohibitive to the great bulk of the people. Cash money has become scarce as there has been caused a glut of local produce at different centres owing to a want of supply of railway wagons. This country has proceeded too far in the development of economic life now to go back again to the primitive stage of barter. What I have myself seen in some parts of Orissa of the present condition of the people consequent upon the present difficulty in the transportation of goods would give one real cause for anxieties; and if this state of things continues long, I am afraid it may affect our revenue to an appreciable extent.

"It was expected that inspite of the many disastrous effcts of the war it might improve the industrial position of the country The expectation has not been fulfilled. I touched on this point slightly in my budget speech last year. The importance and urgency of the subject cannot be too often and too strongly reiterated. India is a country mainly rural in its character and any industrial movement that does not directly help the village artisan is not calculated to improve the condition of the people. I believe the present time is opportune for a successful effort to revive the old cottage industries to which the people will by their very nature and tradition take kindly. In other provinces Government have already moved in the matter. In this province where

public life is still in the process of formation and public activities in such directions are not much in evidence, the initiative should be taken by the Government. I would respectfully suggest that as a first step a survey of the various industries now lingering in different parts of the province may be made with a view to ascertaining ways and means for their improvement and revival. I do not think industrial and technical schools will be of much help for our immediate purpose. Our artisans no doubt need to be trained in improved methods; but what they need most and immediately is capital and raw materials and an encouragement and assurance that their manufactures will sell. For, owing to their ignorance of the current economic condition of the world and the immediate needs of their own country they are shy of taking a new and vigorous step with any degree of faith and certainty even in their own wonted crafts.

"In this connection a wider expansion of the co-operative movement becomes necessary. The number of societies opened up till now in the province is not sufficiently large and especially in Orissa the movement has not made any appreciable progress. I am glad a Deputy Registrar has been appointed for Orissa from this year and it is hoped the movement will soon make its way into the rural areas of Orissa to save the raiyats from ruin and perpetual indebtedness and also will help the village artisans in successfully pursuing their cottage industries.

"While on the subject of industry I would naturally be inclined to speak about the revival of salt manufacture, a question in which I feel deeply interested. As I said in my speech in moving the Resolution on the subject, the revival will go a great way through improving the condition of the poorer section of the community and yielding no mean revenue to Government. In his speech in introducing the Amended Draft Financial Statement, the Hon'ble Finance Member has endeavour-

ed to show that the contribution of this Province towards the Imperial revenue is by no means insignificant. I submit, Sir, by the revival of the salt industry this contribution will be considerably augmented, which will no doubt be to the credit of the Province and may make our claim by so much the greater and juster for increased Imperial grants. Although at the suggestion of the Government my resolution was withdrawn, it has given me much satisfaction to know that the Government are actually taking steps in the matter. I, however, trust that in the next summer we shall see the industry revived in the Chilka areas.

"Sir, as this is the only occasion throughout the year when non-official members get an opportunity to express their views before the Government on matters of general interest, I may be permitted to dwell here on one or two such subjects. Last year I complained of the neglect shown to Orissa in some educational matters. It is now some relief to me to see that the Puri Sanskrit School is provincialised at last and raised to the status of a Sanskrit College with some additional chairs. I trust ere long Government will make the institution fully equipped so that it may become worthy of the sacred historic city of its location. In this connection I have to thank Your Honour personally for the interest you take in our ancient lore and especially in matters of antiquarian interest, as a result of which Your Honour has been pleased to appoint a Pandit to catalogue the old unpublished manuscripts in Orissa of which the number in the Puri district alone is estimated at over a lakh. This work which proceeds from a purely disinterested spirit of inquiry after knowledge and truth has a national importance for the people of Orissa.

"As Chancellor of the Patna University, Your Honour in your inaugural speech on the occasion of the first Convocation was pleased to hold out to the

people of Orissa hope that they would have a University of their own. The faint suggestion of the Patna University Committee has been affirmed by the head of the administration. If that be the goal towards which educational efforts in Orissa should be directed, the Ravenshaw College which will form the nucleus of the University should be equipped accordingly from now. Hitherto the attention it has received is insufficient or at any rate, does not justify the anticipation of what it is destined to be in future. Since a separate University for the Province has been established, the question of opening B. L. classes and also M. A. classes, at least in some selected subjects, at Cuttack can no longer be deferred without a serious handicap to educational progress in Orissa. Ambitious Orissa students cannot all go to Patna for post-graduate studies. Their admission into the Calcutta University will after all be a matter of grace. Necessarily many of the Ravenshaw College graduates will have to go without further education which is essentially necessary to bring about such conditions as would make the separate University in Orissa successful and self-helping.

"Before I conclude, Sir, I beg leave to draw the attention of the Government to a matter in which the educated section of Orissa people feel very strongly. I refer to the employment in the public service. That the people of Orissa are represented on the public service in an extremely meagre proportion is quite patent. I refer here to one or two departments only. As I said the other day in another connection, in the executive staff of the Public Works Department there was only one Oriya sub-overseer above the grade of Rs. 50, though there is ample field for Oriyas in this department in the British districts of Orissa and in the Feudatory States and also in the adjoining Oriya speaking districts of Madras. If there were facilities in Orissa for qualifying men for this department many

educated Orissa youths could have followed a better career. In the Secretariat and in offices of the heads of departments, out of the whole strength of 372 there were only 20 Oriyas last year and only one in the upper division. There are now seven listed posts in this Province but not one has yet fallen to the lot of an Oriya though I think officers of approved merit are not wanting among the Oriyas. This question of employment is not only a question of career with us but is a matter of national honour and self-respect as affording opportunities to our educated youths of doing their part high or low in the administrative organization of the country. Sound statesmanship demands that this aspiration of the intelligent section of a community with a distinct identity of interest should be given full and fair scope for its realisation".

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"May I say a few words regarding the two paragraphs in my speech which Your Honour has ruled out of order and which will, therefore be omitted ?"

His Honour the President :—

"The Hon'ble Member must not dispute a ruling of the Chair on a point of order".

BUDGET FOR 191 -20

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabaudhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"It is with much pleasure that I offer my sincere congratulations to the Hon'ble the Finance Member on the interesting and well-considered budget he has

presented to the Council, for the second time. It is characterised by his usual tone of sympathy and sincerity and possessing, as it does, in the language of the hon'ble member himself, the outstanding feature of the relaxation of the restrictions on expenditure which have been necessary in the past four years, it comes as a great relief after the continued financial stress and stringency under which we had to work so long. It is no small satisfaction to the people to be assured that the Govt. would henceforward continue the course of progressive and beneficial expenditure which has long been marked out as necessary to the prosperity and development of the Province. After this assurance from the hon'ble member, I do not feel inclined to deal with the expenditure side of the budget. In moving my resolution in the last meeting for the Puri water-works, I briefly touched some heads of expenditure. I quite recognise that although the war is now over, the normal economic conditions cannot so soon be restored and it would not be fair to claim for the Finance Member any greater degree of freedom in making allotments for different departments than he has been able to show in framing the budget. I hope, Sir, when the Government has a breathing time it will be our turn to press with greater force the claims of departments, on the expansion and improvement of which the well-being and advancement of the people depend.

"Allow me, Sir, only to make a few observations on the revenue side of the budget. Here I would hasten to assure the Hon'ble the Finance Member at the outset that in examining the financial position of the Province in my last budget speech I had not the slightest impression that the hon'ble member had some sinister motives in selecting the figures for the last preceding three years to illustrate the improvement in our revenues. What I meant was that since the creation of the Province its revenues had been

so fluctuating that its financial stability could not be safely relied upon. And I still hold that it is not always safe to be too sanguine over our estimates of the revenues. In the year which has just passed, in five out of the seven principal heads of revenues the Revised has fallen short of the Estimate. Increase on the Estimate is only seen in Excise and Forests. It is often said that increase in Excise revenue is a proof of the prosperity of the people. Is this inference defensible in the present case ? Here is a people that could not pay its tax and rates on lands which is its mainstay but has consumed a larger quantity of excisable articles. Is this the sign of prosperity ? Whatever may be said in defence of the maintenance and expansion of Excise, the truth is that the poorer section of the community contributes more towards the receipt under this head, and the comparatively well-to-do people when they unfortunately happen to pay to this department, gradually become poor and continue to pay Excise. I am afraid I may be told that it is a trite theme with the non-reiteration by the representatives of the people should not minimize its gravity and importance as a subject which vitally affects their well-being and character. It rather shows the anxiety and solicitude on the part of the thoughtful and educated class to eradicate the evil which is not only increasing poverty in the country but is sapping the vitality of our race. I did not touch on this subject in any of my previous budget speeches. Last year when my Hon'ble friend Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath discussed this subject in his budget speech, the Hon'ble the Finance Member made a reply which almost expressed the utter helplessness of Govt. in the matter, The two important reasons stated in the reply were fear of opposition and loss of revenue. I wish the Government showed such consideration to all popular oppositions. But when they are determined on a certain course of action they generally do it in the teeth of opposition from the people. Are we to understand that the opposition

from drunkards and opium-eaters and also from the aborigines is to be more dreaded and respected than that proceeding from the educated and sober-minded public ?

"Excise no doubt yields a large revenue. In fact the increase under this head is the largest of all other receipts. In 1913-14 it was less than Land Revenue by nearly 2 lakhs and in the present budget for 1919-20 it is estimated at an amount greater than Land Revenue by 5 lakhs, showing an increase of nearly 11 lakhs within a period of seven years. I admit the revenue under this head greatly helps the Government in finding money for expenditure on other useful purposes. But this policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul or to put it more pointedly by an Indian adage, of killing a cow to make a gift of shoes to a Brahman, is not an admirable policy to follow ? Since our discussion of the last budget the United States of America have shown to the world that it is not impossible to eradicate the evil in one day. In certain spheres of life changes and reforms are possible when effected not piecemeal but by a single stroke.

"The advisory committees have not produced the desired result, and such half-hearted measures will never go a great way in securing the object aimed at. I sincerely believe if the Government be really anxious over the matter and ready to sacrifice a portion of its revenue they will find necessary means and measures for an effective prohibition. By such a prohibition the Government will not be a loser. The temporary loss of revenue will be sufficiently and surely made up by the increase in number of healthy, sober and provident people who would be valuable assets to any state.

"Another head of revenue which is showing steady increase is Forests, This is satisfactory. But the administration of this department often causes much

hardship and trouble to the mass of the people. In some localities the forest areas are so constituted that it becomes extremely difficult for the ignorant villagers to strictly observe the rules, which are generally interpreted by subordinate local officers in such a manner as would bring the villagers under their grip. It is a well-known fact that the low class poor people suffer most by the working of the Forest Department. They used to maintain themselves mainly by fuel and forest produce of which they have now been practically deprived. In this connection I may be permitted to refer to the forest question of the Khurda subdivision. In certain villages the forest areas are demarcated so close to the inhabited parts that the lives of the residents and their cattle are always in danger; and as a matter of fact, wolves and tigers have caused loss of life and property to households in some of these localities. I respectfully pray that the panchayat system may be introduced in the forest administration throughout the Province so that the low paid unscrupulous under-officers of the department cannot be the absolute masters of the situation.

"Now, Sir, while speaking on the budget at a time when the Province is passing through an economic crisis, I cannot pass over this subject of widespread scarcity which is daily growing in intensity and extent. Last year when we met here for the final discussion of the budget, the war reached its most critical stage. Nobody then knew, though all wished very sincerely, that it would end so soon. The end has however come to the great glory and honour of the allied arms and for the safety and happiness of the human race. People in this country suffered in many ways from the effects of the war. It was expected that upon the close of the war the conditions would soon change. But to the disappointment and misfortune of the whole country, nay of the whole world, one calamity has been succeeded by another. After the

war, came influenza which has been again followed by the failure of crops. In the Province of Bihar and Orissa, with which we are immediately concerned, excepting a few favoured spots almost all the districts are more or less affected. Rice is selling at a price which is more than double the rate in a normal year. Hundreds of people are now leaving their homes for Assam and other fields of labour. The price of cloths and other necessaries of life are as high as before. In short the pressure of living is daily increasing., and the difficulties will thicken still more during the summer months when the scarcity of water will add to the gravity of the situation. I thank Your Honour for your keen and anxious watchfulness over the situation which was expressed in Your Honour's speech made in this Council on the 22nd of January last. District officers have no doubt been instructed to take speedy measures where necessary and I do not doubt that the Govt. fully realise their responsibilities on the occasion and are sincerely anxious to help the people in the best way they can at this present crisis. But I am afraid that correct and accurate information of the development in the situation does not often reach the Government in time. Even the district officers do not receive precise timely information about some of the out-of the-way tracts of their districts. The defect of the present agency for supplying information to the authorities has often been commented upon, though it has still to continue for want of a better substitute. I would suggest that an advisory committee may be formed in each of the affected districts with members to be selected by the district officer from different parts of the district and with the district officer himself as its president. Such a committee will involve no expenditure. The members will willingly work in the interests of their respective localities, and will keep the district officers informed about the actual condition of their people and may suggest particular measures to be adopted in particular areas. I think committees of

this kind were instituted some time ago to advise the district officers on the priority of certificates to be issued for the transport of local goods, and they did useful work to serve the purpose for which they were established.

"Wherever I have come among the mass in rural areas in some of the districts of Orissa and Chota Nagpur, I have always been asked to press the Government for the opening of rice-golas at important centres of the district for sale at a standard rate. This may be done by the Government themselves or by District Boards and municipalities. The action on this line taken by Government with regard to the sale of cloth produced a healthy and beneficial result, for which Your Honour's Government deserve the sincere gratitude of the people. The difficulty at the present moment is that people in possession of stocks of paddy do not sell, and wait for a harder time when they can demand a rate of their own. The rate ought to be fixed with due regard to the purchasing power of the poeple, which varies largely in different distrcts and in the different areas of the same district. Another point which I would urge in this connection and in which I have the strongest support of many people is the control of food-stuffs and the restriction on exports. It is no flattery when I say that the people of this Province, and to be more certain and definite, the people of Orissa sincerely appreciate Your Honour's sympathy and wisdom as a popular administrator for voicing forth their own thoughts and wishes in the speech above referred to, on the following clear terms:-

"The main difficulty in the way of leaving trade unrestricted lies in the varying economic conditions of different tracts. The workers in mills, for instance, can afford to pay far higher prices than ill-paid labourers in the more backward tracts, and if exports are unrestricted, the latter tracts might be denuded of

their reserves of food which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to replace later on'.

"I earnestly pray that this Government will press this fact upon the Government of India who, it is hoped, will in view of the peculiar economic conditions of most of the districts of this Province and especially of Orissa, allow the local Government to have the full control of their food-stuffs.

"The consideration of the condition of the people naturally leads me to the subject of co-operative societies and cottage industies, of which I spoke in my budget speech last year. It gives me sincere satisfaction to see the progress made by the co-operative movement in Orissa during the year and the appointment of a special officer for the improvement of the textile industries. It is needless to say that weaving has from time immemorial been the chief cottage industry in this country but most of the handloom-weavers have under the peculiar economic pressure caused by foreign influences, been driven out of their family occupation and are now reduced to extreme poverty. A movement organized for the revival of the industry will not only help a dying community but will foster a spirit for new industries among our artisan classes. This movement should proceed hand in hand with the co-operative movement, and if conducted in a spirit of sympathy and with popular support, is sure to go a great way in bringing about an industrial regeneration in our rural areas. I cannot however help regretting here that no step has yet been taken for the revival of salt manufacture in Orissa. The sympathy shown by the Government in this matter and Your Honour's reply on the subject to the address of the people of Balasore and the subsequent visit to the Chilka lake gave us almost an assurance that the work would be undertaken this summer, when it would have given much relief to the people affected by the present scarcity.

Salt-manufacture is now going on in the Contai subdivision in Bengal. There the authorities did not take a long time to start the work when they recognised its necessity and usefulness. Better late than never. Let me however hope to see the salt-manufacture revived in the Chilka before the close of the years. I venture to urge here that if salt can be manufactured in the Contai subdivision so contiguous to Balasore, there is no reason why the manufacture should not be profitably revived on the coast of that district. At any rate, the matter deserves a careful enquiry.

"Many as are the grievances of our people, I do not wish to dilate on them here as the sad and dreadful situation should now absorb all our thoughts and interests, and because we are on the eve of important constitutional changes which, when introduced, will give the people larger power in the administration and will thereby enable them to redress their own grievances in a considerable measure. Whatever the effects of the proposed reforms may be, it is confidently hoped, as it has been authoritatively declared, that responsible Government will begin in the provinces in the first instance. It need hardly be said that the success of the reforms depends upon the sympathetic and wholehearted co-operation of the Government officials with the representatives of the people. Comments have appeared in the press on the attitude of the Civil Service which is said to be opposed to the reform proposals. It is to be regretted that there should be occasion for such comments. But for aught we say, the Civil Service deserves credit for what they have done in this country. Great as is the work the service has rendered, the task which now lies before is still greater. Let us then work, officials and non-officials, in a generous spirit of fellowship and brotherlines to pave the way for reforms, which will lead the people to their destiny".

1-4-1919

BUDGET FOR 1920-21

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

Budget 1920-21

"I am afraid the customary congratulations offered on this occasion to the Hon'ble the Finance Member will give him little joy and satisfaction today, after the appreciation he has made of the general financial position of this Province in presenting to this Council the budget for the next year. His estimate of the condition of our finances is not encourging, and practically confirms the apprehension I expressed in my budget speech year before last. At any rate, the situation is one which cannot be viewed with a sense of perfect security. But I believe that the cause of anxiety is not so great as many may be inclined to think, and a considerable improvement may in future years be effected by following a strict policy of retrenchment and wise economy, and by encouraging industries and other productive activities for which there is a very large scope in this province. As this is the last budget under the old system, and a few months hence a new order of things will come into existence, bringing in new rights and privileges for the Council and determining the future financial policy of provincial Govts, I do not think it necessary to dwell at length on the budget which is now before us. But this is the last budget meeting in the life of the present Council over which Your Honour presides. There is no knowing how many of us will be returned to the Reformed Council. Some may not choose to stand as candidates. Some may not succeed in the election which, though popular and broad-based, may present some difficulties in the beginning. So, with Your Honour's permission, I may take this opportunity to speak a few words on some matters of general interest. Before

doing so, I consider it my duty to express my sincere thanks to Your Honour personally for the kind treatment you have always been pleased to accord to the members of this Council. In common with the people whom we have the honour to represent, we, all of us, who have had the pleasure and privilege of working in this Council under your presidentship sincerely wish an extension of Your Honour's term of office, so that the Province may continue for some time under your sympathetic administration after the introduction of the Reforms which you so sincerely supported.

"The present is an occasion for each member to take stock of his work. It is quite likely that some of us may not have realized all the ideals with which they entered the Council. For myself, I see much remains to be done to bring this Province into line with the sister provinces. But, Sir, the object of my immediate concern is Orissa whose fate is now hanging in the balance. The Montagu-Chelmsford report has held out the promise of a sub-province to Orissa, the nature and character of which have nowhere been yet definitely laid down. Since the Hon'ble Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha moved his resolution in the Imperial Legislative Council for the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts now lying scattered under four different administrations, a new hope has sprung up in the minds of the Oriyas, to whom administrative union is at the present moment the only thing needful in the body politic of India. But all these hopes and prospects are blighted when we look upon the present condition of this unfortunate land. Shall there be a sub-province or a province for the Oriyas ? But let them live first. The vital statistics of some years past show a startling death-rate in almost all the districts of Orissa, which, if allowed to continue unabated may cause the total depopulation of that tract. In some rural and urban areas, the worst has almost come...I specially draw Your Honour's attention to

Balasore where for some months continuously the number of deaths is 30 or 40 times more than the number of births. In other districts the loss of life due to epidemics and other causes is equally great. Economic depression when added to the ravages of epidemics are bound to multiply human miseries. The coastal dstricts of Orissa are more or less liable to flood or drought almost every year. From the reply of the Govt. to a question of mine, it appears that 25 per cent of the area of these districts is unprotected against floods. Repeated damage to crops has resulted in the diminution of the resisting power of the people. Besides those that die untimely of disease or destitution many are driven by want of labour to go to distant places in quest of employment. This has now in some places caused dearth of labourers to carry on ordinary agricultural operations. In short the situation in Orissa has become one of extreme complication and difficulty, causing very grave anxieties to those that have eyes to see. I may humbly suggest that it would be not a day too soon to start an inquiry into the causes of the epidemics in Orissa, specially in Balasore, with a view to adopt measures for their removal. The embankment policy needs to be thoroughly examined, the mouths of some of the rivers should be opened up for the discharge of flood-water, and other necessary steps should be taken to save the country from inundation, while side by side with this, provision should be made for extensive irrigation. If the canal system has not proved a success, some cheaper method might be introduced.

"After all, it has been found that agriculture can no longer successfully continue as the sole stay of existence in Orissa. It is of course very difficult to give a constructive programme to save the situation, but one thing is clear that where agriculture has failed to meet the requirements, it must be largely supplemented by manufactures and industries. In this

again, the initiative has to be taken by the Government. I have to note here with sincere grief that the efforts of this Government for the revival of salt-manufacture in Orissa have not produced the result so eagerly expected. I trust, however, that the fate of that question has not been finally sealed; and if the Government continue to work at it, the difficulty of freight may one day be overcome. I have often referred in my budget speeches to cottage industries. The creation of a department of industries will, I hope, contribute largely to their development. If one part of the Province stands in greater need than another of the revival and improvement of small industries, I think Orissa's claim deserves the first consideration.

"While dealing with the condition of a distressed and dying people, it may not sound well to speak of the grievances of the educated class, whose sense of grief at the miseries of the mass of their fellowmen is heightened by the neglect with which they themselves are treated. But the grievances are there, and are a source of complaint. The educated Oriya feel that Orissa public opinion does not receive at the hands of the Government the consideration which Government has shown during the last three years, with regard to matters such as the election of the Chairman of the Cuttack Municipality, the famine in the Puri District and such minor matters as the location of a beaf-stall in a town. In the matter of employment in the public service, the feeling of the Oriyas is also one of disappointment. Most of their local needs, though repeatedly urged on the attention of the authorities, remain long unsatisfied. Should I refer to the proposal of an Engineering School at Cuttack ? I think I need not dilate at length on these matters. I have indicated only a few of the grievances to keep the Government informed about the feelings and wishes of the people of Orissa.

"I cannot, however, conclude without expressing the feelings of relief which, I think, the establishment of the B. L. classes in the Ravenshaw College next session will bring to the educated community of Orissa and it will, I hope, be followed shortly by the institution of post-graduate teaching for which, I understand, the Maharani of Sonepore has offered to the Govt. a donation of Rs. 50,000 so that the college may be on a fair way to the development of a University for Orissa."

30-3-1920

MISCELLANEOUS

Champaran Agriculture Bill.

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"I beg to submit that the earliest opportunity should be taken to introduce a Bill with a view to giving effect to some of the recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry as regards the grievances of the Champaran tenants. It may be a concession to the agitators or a concession to the planters; whatever it may be, the object of the Bill is laudable. It is to settle the dispute, which has been of very long standing, in the Champaran district.

"It is a fact that the grievances of the Champaran raiyats reached a stage which called for the intervention of public opinion in Bihar and of the public press. That the mute raiyats of Champaran could attract the sympathy and support of the leaders of the public is a sufficient proof of the acute stage which their grievances had reached. I am not thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the Champaran people, but it gives me great pleasure to see that the grievances of the tenants and of the poor unhappy people are to be redressed by this Bill to a certain extent.

"I have only to suggest one point with regard to the members who are to form the select committee. I submit that some representatives of the raiyats of the Champaran district should be included. I suppose Mr. Jameson and Mr. Kennedy have been taken in to represent the interests of the planters. The interests of the raiyats-"

His Honour the President :—

"Is the Hon'ble Member discussing the composition of the Select Committee ? If so, he is out of order, as the motion before the Council at present only concerns the introduction of the Bill."

29-11-1917

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AMENDMENT OF BENGAL TENANCY ACT, 1885

The Hon'ble Mr. Das —

"YOUR HONOUR,

"This is a Resolution in which the Mover has introduced several thousand feet of most controversial legal questions between what he calls the Lord Chancellor's feet and the Stttlement Officer's feet. This is practically a Bill to amend the Tenancy Act. In my experience I never came across a Resolution which amounted to a Bill as this one does to introduce amendments to an existing Act. In his speech the Mover has referred to many points of law which one could not follow without a copy of his speech. I therefore, think that the discussion of this resolution should be postponed to a future sitting of the Council".

4-3-1918

VICTORY RESOLUTION

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das:—

"I rise to accord my support to the resolution moved by my hon'ble friend, Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath. Not only all the members of this Council but the people of this Province and also the people of this vast Empire feel happy at the glorious termination of this war.

"I just desire to convey to Your Honour how the people think of the present situation. Well, the other day, just after the armistice news was published in the papers, I was walking alone in a retired country place in the evening when an old man coming from his day's work followed me. He asked me "Is it true" ? From his words I could very well guess what he meant to ask. I said, "What do you mean, my good fellow" ? He replied : " Is it true that they have come to terms" ? I said "Yes". The poor old man said "God be thanked : we poor people are saved". I said to him : "Why poor people ? the whole Empire is saved. Our sense of anxiety is now over". Then the old man heaved a sigh that indicated the great relief that he was enjoying, and then he thanked God and said "God save the King". I joined also by saying "Long live our King, God save our King."

28-11-1918

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DRINKING WATER FOR PURI

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das moved the following resolution:—

"That this council recommends to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that in the budget for 1919-20 a sum of one lakh of rupees be allotted for the supply of drinking water in the Puri Municipality, and that this amount be obtained by curtailing Rs. 50,000 from Police, Rs. 20,000 from Political, Rs. 20,000 from Jails and Rs. 10,000 from Land Revenue."

He said—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"At the last meeting of the Council we passed an Act to prevent adulteration of food. The Act meant in the first instance to operate in towns. This was done for the reason that many of our towns are sources of diseases and need careful safeguard for sanitation. In towns like Puri and Gaya where large numbers of pilgrims of various classes and circumstances come daily from different parts of the country, the necessity of such safeguards is quite obvious. But mere preventive measures will not do. Provisions should be made for a positive supply of the necessaries of life in the purest form possible.

"Pure water is a more prime and a greater necessity of life than food. One would naturally expect that it had been sufficiently provided for before a Food Adulteration Act is passed. In many of our municipalities the supply of pure drinking water has become a pressing necessity. Your Honour knows what serious conse-

quences ensued in Balasore during the last two years for want of good drinking water. I may, however, take this opportunity to thank Your Honour for the voluntary contribution Your Honour was pleased to make for the sanitary improvement of that town, though the grant has largely to be supplemented before any substantial improvement could be effected. I sincerely trust the sanitary question of Balasore has engaged the serious attention of Govt.

"My present resolution relates to the Puri town. Puri is the greatest pilgirm centre in India. It is with regard to this most important and ancient place of pilgrimage that Sir W. W. Hunter observed about 50 years ago. The squalid pilgrim army of Jagannath with its rags and skin and hair freighted with vermin and impregnated with infection, may any year slay thousands of the most talented and most beautiful of our age in Vienna, London or Washington. Circumstances have, ho ever changed considerably since this observation was made.. With regard to some fell diseases, for instance influenza, the tide of infection has now turned back from western cities upon our Indian towns and villages, but the influences of the city of Jagannath are as wide and far reaching as ever. Much has been done but their remains much roo still for improvement of the sanitary conditions of this town. The Govt. are, however, conscious of their responsibilities in the matter. Schemes for water-supply and drainage have long been under their consideration and costly experiments have already been made; but the work has not yet been done. The drainage scheme has for the present been practially abandoned. But the question of water-supply is a matter of greater urgency and importance in which delay may be dangerous.

"So far as I understand, the subject first received the attention of Government in 1904 and the scheme received administrative sanction in 1908. The then

Government contributed one lakh of rupees towards the working out of the scheme. About Rs. 25,000 was given by the Puri Lodging House Fund and a few thousand rupees were obtained from public subscription. I understand a large portion of the money has already been spent in acquiring lands, in sinking wells and making other experiments. Since the sanction of the scheme it has undergone considerable modification, and there has been an increase in the estimate of the cost of construction, which now stands at over four lakhs. Sanitary authorities have repeatedly pressed for undertaking the work without further delay, and I respectfully submit, Sir, in view of the growing importance of this town, the work should not be postponed any longer. Puri has now become an important health resort. Many people suffering from malaria, tuberculosis and such other diseases come to Puri for change. Your Honour's short stay during summer has added not a little to the importance of this little historic town. In these circumstances one has to be surprised to think that the scheme of water supply has not yet been an accomplished fact, though ten years have elapsed since it was sanctioned by Government. Plan and estimates are ready, the site has been selected and initial experiments made; in short all the necessary preliminaries have bee gone through. There is now no reason for further delay.

"As I have already said the work would require over four lakhs of rupees. The amount cannot be allotted in any one year's budget. It has to be met gradually. The Puri municipality is not in a position to make any contribution towards this amount; it is now so heavily in debt which it has incurred on account of the drainage scheme. The municipality has repeatedly prayed for additional grants for the water-works. War conditions are now over; the Hon'ble Finance Member has expressed the opinion that the restrictions on expenditure which have been necessary in the past

four years ought now to be relaxed. I submit, Sir, now is the time for the extension of works of public utility, and the claim of the Puri town for supply of pure drinking water should no longer be deferred.

"There will be another advantage if the work is undertaken this year. It would be a sort of relief work and would supply labour to a large number of people who would otherwise be seriously affected by the scarcity which is gradually becoming more intense and acute in parts of the Puri district to which many distressed people from the neighbouring feudatory states have already begun to flock in quest of labour.

" I hope the Council will not grudge an allotment of one lakh of rupees for the sanitary improvement of the town in which all India is interested. If the Government make up their mind to undertake the work quickly, they may find money from any source. I, however, venture to make my own suggestion as to how the amount could be obtained.

"The total expenditure on Police is estimated at 55,15,000, showing an increase of Rs. 4,91,000 over the actuals of 1917-18 and an increase of about two lakhs over the Revised of the current year. I submit, Sir, there is no justification for this increase. The war is now over, and in a few months the Defence of India Act will cease to operate. The necessity for strengthening the Criminal Investigation Department and of the special police force practically no longer exists. The gradual increase of expenditure on Police is not a fair comment on the peaceful and law-abiding character of the people of Bihar and Orissa. At any rate the conditions in Orissa do not warrant any increase whatever, and it would certainly not be unreasonable to demand a proportionate curtailment of the increase of two lakhs, and the proportion may be fixed at one-fourth of the whole so far as Orissa is concerned.

"The budget under jails shows an increase of Rs. 2,65,000 over the actuals of 1917-18, and an increase of Rs. 2,50,000 over the present budget. The charges in connection with the seditionist prisoners have swelled enormously. We all confidently hope that the number of such prisoners will fall very soon, and the expenditure proposed under this particular item may be fixed at Rs. 79,000 intead of Rs. 99,000. This reduction without affecting the Jail Department will give us Rs. 20.000 for a humanitarian purpose.

"Another sum of Rs. 20,000 may be obtained from the head Political. The expenditure on this head should not properly be made a charge on the Provincial revenue. The tributes paid by the feudatory states go to the Imperial revenue and the representatives of the British Indian tax payers in this Council are not allowed to raise any question regarding this department. Leaving aside the question of principle, one would however be struck with the sudden increase of expenditure on this head by Rs. 24,000. Provision has been made for an Additional Political Agent, to which the increase is chiefly due. There has been a Political Agent since the creation of the office, and the one and the same man has been allowed to remain there for over twelve years. During his absence the present Additional Political Agent was alone discharging the duties perhaps with greater success and wider satisfaction. There is no reason why two officers should be employed in the same office the duties of which were so long discharged by one. I submit, Sir, Rs. 20,000 may safely be diverted from this head.

"My last suggestion is that Rs. 10,000 may be taken from the land revenue. The two items under this head namely. Minor Settlement operations and other Settlement Operations, have Rs. 15,000 allotted to each. During the next year which will be a year of scarcity more or less throughout the Province, settlement operations

of any kind should not be undertaken. So there can be no objection to a portion of the allotment being spent on a work which would help also a large number of people in their distress.

"With these words I beg to move the resolution standing in my name and trust it will meet with the acceptance of Your Honour's Government which has already recognised the necessity and importance of the sanitary improvement of the city of Jagannath, the insanitation of which may injuriously affect not only the people of the town itself but of the whole of India and, as Sir William Hunter said, may 'devastate households, sack cities, and mark its line of march by a broad black track across three continents."

4-3-1919

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The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandu Das:—

"YOUR HONOUR,

"In reply I have only to say that I was strictly in very serious mood when I surggested the various heads from which the expenditure might be met. I never place anything before the Council of which I am not entirely convinced. I have indicated the reasons in support of the deductions which I proposed in my resolution should be made from the different heads. I know the Government are anxious to push on the work, and that is why I press the matter before the Government to make provision this year. I have stated before that the prelimi-

naries have all been settled, and that is why I would propose an allotment to be made for the undertaking of the work. The hon'ble member in charge introduced the Bill to prevent the adulteration of food; I am sure my resolution for pure drinking water will have his perfect sympathy. I have no doubt about that. But my contention is that generally any question regarding Orissa, although it is under the consideration of Government, finds its solution only after great delay. I refer to the Engineering School question; it is a question which has been before the Government for about 12 or 16 years. I am told every time that it is under the consideration of Govt. In the case of water-supply for Puri, I am now told that it is under the consideration of experts. Considerations are no doubt very good things; the more mature they are the better. But have we to live only on consideiations ? The old adage says; 'the woman who deliberates much, does not conceive.' I am afraid this is a question now of ten years standing. One or two years more and it will be barred by limitation. At any rate I take the assurance of Govt. that the matter has been receiving their consideration and believe it, but my only prayer is, let not twelve years elapse before the scheme is finally settled and before we get pure drinking water in the holy city. With these words I beg to withdraw the resolution."

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SPEECHES: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

ON EDUCATION

Gopabandhu's first love was education. He planned an education-system for "whole man". This was given shape in the Satyabadi School. In the Council, he devoted a good deal of his speeches to problems of education at various levels.

His pleadings in the Council eventually brought in M. A. classes in English and B. L. classes in the Ravenshaw College. This solitary M. A. course continued till the establishment of the Utkal University in 1943. Through his efforts a Sanskrit College was established at Puri and an Engineering School at Cuttack. His pleadings in the Council also brought 10% free-studentship in Schools and Colleges.

But he was very much dissappointed. His repeated efforts in the Council for the spread of education and acceptance of Satyabadi pattern were appreciated, but did not evoke any response. Sir Edward Gait, Lieutenant Governor of Bihar and Orissa, visited Satyabadi School twice and appreciated its functioning and achievements. Yet Government did not take any action for the approval and expansion of such education. Government thought of Satyabadi School as a sort of preparation against British Government and looked upon it with suspiction. No action was therefore taken by Government to accede to Gopabandhu's pleadings.

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ON FLOOD AND FAMINE

Gopabandhu was born from the distressing flood and famine of Orissa. In the Council, a number of times, he presented the harrowing picture of distress in the flood-striken areas. He successfully fought against the mis-representation of the distress of the people, by Mr. Gruning, Commissioner of Orissa. Sir Edward Gait was touched by Gopabandhu's appeal, visited Orissa and witnessed personally the acute and widespread distress. He conceded that Government had not done what it should have done. Yet Government did not declare famine in the affected areas. The administrative machinery was more impervious than stone. "What good", Gopabandhu wrote to Sir Edward later, "came out of my wailing prayers inside the Council for four years ?"

As a result, however, of his efforts, a Flood Enquiry Committee was appointed in 1922 and another Flood Expert Committee, in 1928. Taking a longer perspective, the report of this later Committee led to the formation of Expert Committees which eventually resulted in the construction of the Hirakud Dam.

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ON BUDGET

Gopabandhu was a member of the Council for four years. Four Annual Budgets were presented during this period and he made speeches on all these four budgets. He criticised heavy expenditure on departments like Police and suggested transfer of certain amounts to departments like Education. Criticisms of the budget in regard to the sources of revenue were also incisively presented by him. Critical speeches on budget in those days were like rituals and did not receive any response.

ON SALT INDUSTRY

In the coastal districts of Orissa, salt manufacture had been an established industry since long. The East India Company brought salt from Liverpool which came free of any transport charges in ships, because it was carried as ballast. When the East India Company conquered Orissa the right of the people to manufacture salt was withdrawn. Government imposed an excise duty on salt so that local salt would not be able to compete with imported salt. People of coastal Orissa lost employment and income due to the closure of salt manufacture.

Gopabandhu made a fervent appeal in his speech with references, quotations and detailed statistical information. Sir Edward Gait visited the Chilka Lake areas and gave assurance to restore the right of free manufacture of salt in Orissa. During the First World War, Liverpool salt could not come to India. After the war, imports were resumed and the assurance of Sir Edward Gait was put in cold storage.

MISCELLANEOUS

Among the speeches under the miscellaneous category, the one on providing water in the town of Puri was particularly significant. There used to be heavy epidemics of cholera in Puri at festival times. A centre of pilgrims needed protective drinking water. May be it was belated, but eventually drinking water supply was provided in Puri.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The questions put by Pandit Gopabandhu in the Council referred to a large number of problems. Many of them were particularly vital for Orissa. Right from the beginning of the Utkal Sammilani to amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts under one administration was the principal demand. Numerous questions were asked in the Council on this subject. Pandit Nilakantha writes in his autobiography that, when Gopabandhu mentioned to him about the abolition of Oriya language in Singhbhum he wept bitterly. Questions pertaining to Local Bodies, Forest Administration, Land Settlement etc. also brought forth various interesting answers and statistics from Government. It has not been possible to classify and group the questions under different categories. The contents, however, give a broad index in this regard. Hardly much of response was received from the Government in pursuing the problems raised or in rendering necessary redress, but the questions and answers still continue to provide the problems of Orissa which absorbed the leaders of the country and on which they sought redress and immediate action. As documents of reference they continue to have present interest and validity.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Date	Question
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7 March 1917	1) Education 2) Forest Administration 3) District Board 4) Gun Licence
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31 January 1918	1) Education 2) Salt Industry
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30 July 1920	1) Education
10 September 1920	1) Municipality 2) Education 3) Taxes

Extract from the proceedings of the meeting of the Council of the Lt. Governor of Bihar & Orissa, met in the Council Chamber at Patna on Monday, the 22nd January, 1917.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED:

" (*a*) Is it a fact that there is a strong desire on the part of the Oriyas to have B.L. and M.A. classes at Cuttack ?

" (*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if the opening of these classes in the Ravenshaw College is under contemplation ? ".

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

" (*a*) Government are aware that many Oriyas are in favour of the measure.

" (*b*) No such proposal is at present under the consideration of Government" .

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state when the post of Assistant Superintendent of Sanskrit Studies sanctioned for Orissa and Chota Nagpur is to be filled up ?

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

" The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply given to a similar question asked by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dvarika Nath at the last meeting of the Legislative Council".

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPHBANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken towards the establishment of the proposed Sanskrit College at Puri and Muzaffarpur ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

"The Dharma Samaj Sanskrit School at Muzaffarpur has been taken over by Government with effect from November last and raised to the status of a College. Government are not yet in a position to say when the Sanskrit School at Puri will be provincialized, but the matter is under consideration."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :—

(*a*) the number of technical institutions in the Province,

(*b*) the character of the instruction imparted in each ;

(*c*) the annual cost of maintenance of each ;

(*d*) the amount of help each receives from Government or from any other source ; and

(*e*) the value of the annual outturn, if any, each yields ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

"There are at present thirty-six Technical and Industrial Schools in the Province. The whole of the information desired by the Hon'ble Member is not at present available, but a statement will be prepared, as far as possible, and laid on the table at the next meeting of the Council."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Sadar Subdivisional Officer of Puri and the Subdivisional Officer of Khurda have been elected as members from the Local Boards of their respective subdivisions to the Puri District Board in disregard of the Government Circular No. 21-LS.G. of the the 8th March 1911 ?

"(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to set aside the elections ?

"(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state in what other districts, if any, in the Province the Subdivisional Officers instead of being appointed ex-officio have been elected to the District Boards ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HAMMOND REPLIED :

"(*a*) The facts are as stated."

"(*b*) The Commissioner will be asked to report on the propriety of taking necessary action under section 18 (*d*) of the Local Self Government Act."

"(*c*) The information asked for is not available but all Commissioners will be asked to draw the attention of District Magistrates to the provisions of the Circular."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the meeting of the Puri Sadar Local Board to elect members to the District Board was held only on a week's notice and that the result of the election was affected by this insufficient notice ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HAMMOND REPLIED :

"The fact is as stated. The Commissioner of the Division will be asked to report what action he considers necessary."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state the number of members on each of the District Boards of the Province showing how many of them are in actual receipt of pay from the Government and how many are zamindars or zamindars' agents ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HAMMOND REPLIED :

"The annexed statement gives the number of official and non-official members on the District Boards

of the Province. Government have no information to show how many members are zamindars or zamindars' agents, and there has not been sufficient time to collect it since notice of the question was received. If the Hon'ble Member still wishes for the information, it will be given him at the next meeting."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the present constitution of the Puri District Board more than half of the appointed members are salaried servants of Government ?"

"(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they consider this to be an illegality?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HAMMOND REPLIED:

"The fact is not as stated in the question. Government do not regard either the Government Pleader or the Manager of the Jagannath Tample as being salaried servants within the meaning of section 7 of the Local Self-Government Act."

Extract from proceedings of the Legislative Council of Bihar and Orissa met in the Council Chamber at Patna on Wednesday, the 7th March 1917.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

" (*a*) Are the Government aware of the many private efforts that are being made at several places of the Province to start High English Schools, or to raise the existing local Middle English Schools to that standard ?"

" (*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to give a list of such efforts as have not yet succeeded in establishing the High Schools and in getting them recognized by the University ?"

" (*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what they have done or propose to do, to encourage these private efforts ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

" (*a*) to (*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to Chapter IV of the Report on the Progress of Education in Bihar and Orissa for 1915-16, which gives the information at the disposal of the Local Government. This shows that Government have steadily endeavoured, within the funds at their disposal, to encourage the efforts of private individuals to improve and extend the scope of Secondary Education within the Province. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee a grant of Rs. 20,000-has been placed at the disposal of the Director of Public Instruction for non-recurring expenditure on the improvement of Secondary Education."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

" (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state at what stage the question of the reconstitution of the forests in the Khurda Subdivision is now pending ?"

"(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have decided upon any plan or scheme for the constitution of the reserved and protected forests of Khurda and for the working and administration thereof?"

"(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the scheme ?

"(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a sketch of the plan showing the relative distances of the demarcated boundary line of the proposed Reserved and Protected Forests of Khurda from the inhabited parts of the several villages along which the line is laid down ?

THE HON'BLE MR. COUPLAND REPLIED :

"(*a*) In pursuance of the policy announced in the Resolution on the forest Administration Report for 1915-16, published in the Bihar and Orissa Gazette of the last December, 1915, the demarcation of 38 blocks of Protected Forests in the Khurda Subdivision has now been completed and confirmed by Government. Government have also approved of a proposal to demarcate, as a separate block, the area known as the Barmals and have asked the Commissioner to submit, in consultation with the Conservator of Forests, detailed rules for the management of these blocks and of the undemarcated area. These rules, when finally framed and approved by Government, will take the place of the existing rules under sections 29, 31 and 41 of the Indian Forest Act (Act VII of 1878) which at present apply to all the waste lands in the Estate without distinction.

"(*b*) and (*c*) Government have not under consideration any plan or scheme for the reconstitution of the Reserved Forests in Khurda. They have approved provisionally, subject to further examination by the Commissioner and to the amendment of the rules above referred to, draft working plans for the demarcated blocks. Nothing would be gained by publishing these plans at the present stage.

"(*d*) It would be impossible to show on a small scale map the detailed information required by the Hon'ble Member, and Government do not consider that any public purpose, commensurate with the trouble and expense involved, would be served by the reproduction for publication of the working maps submitted with the demarcation report."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state the present areas of the Protected and Reserved Forests in each of the forest districts of the Province ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. COUPLAND REPLIED ;

"The information asked for will be found in Form No.7 appended to the Forest Administration Report for the year 1915-16."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Is it a fact that the system of rasăd supply caused much hardship to the Gauntias and tenants in some parts of the Sambalpur District ?

"(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to abolish the system under the present improved state of the local markets and extended communications in the district?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

"(*a*) Inquiries have been made into the working of the system from time to time, the last occasion being in 1916, when Government found that there was no reason to suppose that the system, which is regulated by rules framed under the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, was being abused."

"(*b*) Bazars are few in number and trade is mostly carried on at hats while communications are still backward. Having regard to these conditions Government do not see their way to abolishing the system at present."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there are hostel arrangements for the students of this Province reading at the Calcutta Medical College ?"

"(b) If not, will the Government be pleased to state if they intend to make such arrangements in Calcutta equally suitable to the students of both Bihar and Orissa ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HAMMOND REPLIED :

"(a) At present there are no hostel arrangements for Bihari students reading at the Calcutta Medical College. The Oriya students are accommodated in the mess provided for the Oriya Law students."

"(b) The question of making hostel arrangements for the Bihari Hindu and Muhammadan students at the Medical College, Calcutta, is under consideration, and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals is corresponding with the Principal of the College on the subject."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"With reference to the reply given by the Hon'ble Mr. Hammond to the question put by me at the last meeting of the Council regarding the constitution of District Boards, will the Government be pleased to state the number of members of each District Board in the Province who are zamindars or zamindars' agents ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HAMMOND REPLIED:

"A statement* giving the information required by the Hon'ble Member is laid on the table."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state the number of applications made and the number granted for the license of guns in each district of the Province during the years 1913-14, 1914-15 and 1915-16 ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

' A statement* of applications received and granted for licenses in forms XI to XIX of the Indian Arms Rules, 1909, which cover the right to keep, manufacture and sell-arms of all description during the years 1913, 1914 and 1915 is laid on the table. Separate figures for applications for licenses for the possession of guns in forms XVI, XVII and XVIII are not available, but the difference between them and the figures given in the statement is very small".

Extract from Proceedings of the Legislative Council of Bihar and Orissa met in the Council Chamber at Patna on Thursday, the 29th November, 1917.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state if any arrangement has been made with the authorities of the Sibpur Engineering College such as has been made by the Assam and Burma Governments for special practical training for one year of successful Engineering students of this Province, holding Government scholarships ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. CLAYTON REPLIES :

"The answer is in the negative. Recruitment to the Provincial Service of the Public Works Department in Bihar and Orissa is now made from the Thomason College, Rurki.

"Only one Engineering scholarship is granted by the Government of Bihar and Orissa at the Sibpur Engineering College and that is reserved for Oriya students. The present holder of the scholarship is about to be given a practical training in this Province",

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the highest examination the students of the Raj Kumar College at Raipur are required to pass ?"

"(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of students that have joined the College and passed the said examination since it was started ? What is the number of boys now on roll for Bihar and Orissa and Chota Nagpur separately ?"

"(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state if any of the students of the College joined any other college or

colleges for the purpose of higher studies ? If so, will the Government be pleased to give the names of the Colleges and the number in each ?"

"(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to say if the College is affiliated to the Calcutta University ?"

"(*e*) Are the Government aware that parents in Orissa are not favourably inclined to send their children to the College ?"

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of educating the Kumars of the proprictors of Orissa at the Ravenshaw Collegiate School at Cuttack or any other suitable place in Orissa ?"

"(*g*) Is there any official or non-official member in the Governing Body of the Raj Kumar College from Orissa proper ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

"The Rajkumar College being in another province the Lieutenant-Governor in Council has no detailed information regarding its activities or the number of the students on its rolls. The following brief reply to the Hon'ble Member's question as a whole is all that can be given from the information at the disposal of the Local Government.

"The College is not affiliated to the Calcutta University, but its final examination is equivalent to the matriculation examination. It is specially intended for the education of the families of Feudatory Chiefs and at the present time seven boys of this class from Bihar and Orissa are reading there. The College was recently inspected by the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India who was most favourably impressed with its teaching, hostel arrangements and discipline. The Political Agent for the Orissa Feudatory States is a member of its governing body. It is understood that a few pupils from Orissa belong to the zamindari classes. Government are unable to subscribe to the view that it would be better if they were educated elsewhere."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BRAJA SUNDAR DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased to state—

"(*a*) The number of seats reserved and the number of scholarships sanctioned for Oriya students at the Medical College, Calcutta?"

"(*b*) The number of applications received for admission into the College this year."

"(*c*) The number of students that have been awarded the scholarship?"

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

"(*a*) Eighteen vacancies in the Calcutta Medical College are reserved for students from this Province, including domiciled Bengalis. No fixed number of vacancies is reserved for Oriya students, but two scholarships are reserved for them."

"(*b*) The total number of applications received for admission into the College for the current session was 108 up to the last date prescribed for the purpose.

"(*c*) Six scholarships have been awarded to students, five to Biharis and one to an Oriya. The second scholarship reserved for Oriyas was given to a Bihari, because no genuine Oriya was available to take it".

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of students that appeared and the number that passed from the Cuttack Medical School at the last final qualifying examination ?

"(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to say if questions Nos. 1, 2 and 5 of the Pathology Paper are in conformity with the syllabus prescribed by Govt. in page 22 of the Bihar and Orissa Medical Examination Board ?"

"(*c*) In view of the unprecedented result of the Cuttack Medical School, will the Government be pleased to State if the next examination is going to be held at an interval of about six months according to schedule II, rule 7, page 5 of the Bihar and Orissa Medical Examination Board ?"

"(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire and state if the result is due to any defect in teaching or defect in examining ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

"(*a*) Twenty-one candidates appeared at the examination, one was expelled from the examination on the first day. Of the remainder one passed the examination."

"(*b*) Government are advised that questions Nos. 1, 2 and 5 of the Pathology paper are not outside the scope of the prescribed syllabus."

"(*c*) The next examination will be held after an interval of about six months."

"(*d*) Government have made enquiries and are of opinion that the standard of medical knowledge expected from the students in certain papers was too high. The matter has already been brought to the notice of the Medical Board. The teaching at the Cuttack Medical School is reported to be efficient."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS, ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Oriya Hindus and Oriya Muhammadans, Bihari Hindus and Bihari Muhammadans, drawing a salary of Rs.50/- (Fifty) and upwards, mentioning the office they hold in the Public Works Department of Orissa Division, out of a total number of 342 officers and clerks employed there ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. CLAYTON REPLIED :

"Of the 342 employes in the Public Works Department of the Orissa Division, 132 are Oriyas and Biharis.

The number of the latter drawing a salary of Rs.50 a month and upwards is shown in the statement which is laid on the table.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state the number of students admitted to the 1st year class of the Cuttack Survey School in 1917 and the total number of students receiving education in the School this year ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MC PHERSON REPLIED :

"The number of students admitted to the 1st year class of the Cuttack Survey School in 1917 is seven and the total number of students in the school is ten."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS, ASKED :

"Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a paragraph in the UTKAL DIPIKA of the 25th August, 1917 recommending a revision of public holidays in the Orissa Division keeping in view the national needs of the people of the Division."

THE HON'BLE MR. MC PHERSON REPLIED :

"Government have seen the article referred to and have ascertained that, so far as the offices under the control of the district officers of Orissa are concerned, sufficient use is made of the discretionary powers vested in these officers to give additional local holidays and to vary holidays granted by executive orders to meet special local conditions in Orissa. The article appears to refer mainly to civil court holidays, the prescription of which is within the competence of the High Court of Judicature at Patna. The attention of the Hon'ble Judges has been drawn to the article with a view to such action as they may consider necessary."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS, ASKED :

"Considering the isolated and inaccessible nature of the District of Angul and its backwardness in education, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of opening a High English School there or of affording facilities to the inhabitants for higher studies elsewhere ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

"Government have now under consideration proposals of the Director of Public Instruction for the creation of scholarships which will enable deserving Angul students to continue their studies at the Ravenshaw Collegiate School. They do not consider that the time has yet come for the opening of a High School in Angul and in any case such a project must stand over till the financial position improves."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Is it a fact that the only road from Bhadrak, the nearest railway station to the port of Chandbali, is practically impassable during certain periods of the year ?"

"(*b*) Is it a fact that on account of the bad condition of that road, Government officials of the district are permitted to travel via Cuttack or Calcutta for coming to the port and are paid travelling allowances by the routes actually taken by them ?

"(*c*) Is it a fact that on account of irregularity in steamer service, people are practically isolated and traffic is absolutely blocked ?

"(*d*) Considering the importance of the road, leading to the only seaport in the Province, do the Government intend to make inquiries and take steps to remove the inconveniences now felt by the people ?"

"(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state when the metalling of the road is likely to be completed ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

"(*a*) The road is unmetalled and in the heavy rains is impassable for vehicular traffic. It is a good fair weather road."

"(*b*) Gazetted officers are permitted to go to Chandbali by rail and steamer via Cuttack in order to save time. Travelling allowance is paid to officers according to the route actually taken by them, but during the last three years, no officer has drawn travelling allowance for travelling to Chandbali via Calcutta."

"(*c*) It is not correct that all traffic is stopped even in the heaviest rains. There is always traffic on the last six miles; from Motto to Chandbali, and on the first two miles between Bhadrak and Tihiri ; on the six miles between Thiri and Motto there is very little traffic even in fair weather."

"(*d*) The Local Government fully realize the importance of the road. Proposals were submitted to them in 1914 for its improvement at an estimated cost of Rs.3,35,000/- and a grant of Rs.50,000/- has been made for raising and metalling one section of it. In addition the District Board has spent Rs.27,736/- on the improvement of the road in the last three years. Further estimates of Rs.49,968/- have been sanctioned for metalling other sections."

"(*e*) It is expected that the metalling of miles 1 to 10 of the road will be completed in 1920, and of miles 25 to 31 in 1918. No proposals have yet been sanctioned for metalling miles 11 to 24. The necessary waterways in this section would cost several lakhs of rupees and steel girders for the purpose are not procurable during the war."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table figures showing the number of Postal Superin-

tendents, Postal Inspectors, and 1st grade Postmasters serving in the Province and be pleased to state how many Biharis and Oriyas hold these posts severally ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

" A statement* containing the required information is laid on the table."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS, ASKED :

" (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Middle English Schools in the Orissa Division, receiving grants-in-aid from each District Board of the Division during the year 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17?"

" (b) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of Middle English Schools in the Orissa Division, specifying the number in each district and each Feudatory State ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MC PHERSON REPLIED :

" (a) and (b) The statements* are laid on the table."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS, ASKED :

" (a) Is it a fact that there were three professors and lecturers (including the former Principal of the College and a half-time teacher of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School) for Mathemetics in the Ravenshaw College before the opening of the B.Sc Classes there and that the number at present has been reduced to two only ?

" (b) In view of the fact that the Patna University Committee in their reports recommended three Provincial Educational Service and one Subordinate Educational Service men for the Mathematical staff of the Ravenshaw College and in view of the fact that there are only two men at present for teaching I.A., I.Sc., B.A. and B.Sc. Classes there, do the Government intend to strengthen the Mathematical staff of the College by an addition of a professor and a lecturer ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

"(a) The reply is in the affirmative. Strictly speaking, however, there were only two whole-time teachers before the B.Sc. Classes were opened, as, in view of his other duties, a Principal is regarded only as a half-time teacher."

"(b) The question has recently been under consideration and Government have just sanctioned the temporary addition of one professor-ship to the Mathematical staff of the Ravenshaw College."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS, ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state what use is made of the salt that is had as a by-product from the manufacture of saltpetre in the districts of Champaran and Saran ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

" So far as Government are aware most of the salt obtained as a by-product from the manufacture of saltpetre, is used as food for cattle, or for curing hides."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS, ON BEHALF OF THE HON'BLE BABU BRAJA SUNDAR DAS, ASKED :

" Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following :—

(a) The total collection of revenue of the Orissa Division under different heads for the years 1916 and 1917, and

(b) The total expenditure on administration on all heads (noting them separately) for the year 1916 and 1917.

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

"A statement* showing the actual Revenue and direct Expenditure by major heads in respect of the

Orissa Division for the year 1916-17 is laid on the table. The figures are subject to modifications, as the Accountant-General reports that the accounts for the year have not yet been finally closed.

" The statement of expenditure is necessarily incomplete in as much as indirect expenditure such as that on the Executive Council, Secretariat, Heads of Department, and High Court is not distributed among the divisions of the province."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das, on behalf of the Hon'ble Babu Braja Sundar Das asked :—

" Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) The number of appointments made in the Provincial and Subordinate Executive Services in the Province under the following heads :

(*i*) by nomination by the Commissioners of Divisions,

(*ii*) by nomination by the Board of Revenue,

(*iii*) by nomination by the University,

(*iv*) by direct nomination by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bihar and Orissa,

(*v*) by other ways.

" (*b*) The total of appointments made in the Orissa Division under sub-heads (*i*) to (*v*) in clause (*a*) above, since the creation of the new Province and the total number of Oriyas appointed under each head".

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied :—

" Two statements are laid on the table."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked :—

" (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the English article in the UTKAL DIPIKA

of the 10th November, 1917, regarding the congestion of applicants for seats in the I.Sc. class of the Ravenshaw College ?

"(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if they intend to make provision in the next college session to meet the growing demand for seats in the I.Sc. class of the Ravenshaw College ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(*b*) The Principal has been asked to submit proposals for dealing with the matter after consulting the Governing Body."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked :—

"(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have made an estimate of the number of Primary Schools to be maintained in the several districts of the province in pursuance of the policy laid down in their circular No.37 of the 22nd August, 1916, on the recommendations of the Committee on Primary Education.

"(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing district by district, the number of Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Middle Vernacular Schools estimated and the number now existing ?

"(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state if the estimated number is the minimum which each particular district may have ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(*b*) Figures showing Upper and Lower Primary Schools separately are not readily available. A statement showing the total number of Primary Schools needed is laid on the table and with regard to Middle Vernacular Schools the Hon'ble Member is referred to

the answer given to a similar question asked by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath at this meeting.

" (c) This is the intention."

Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das, asked :—

" (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent on working out the drainage scheme in the Puri Municipality ?

" (b) Is it a fact that the scheme did not prove a success and has consequently been abandoned ?

" (c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they propose to direct an inquiry into the causes of the failure and to fix the responsibility for the loss sustained by the Municipality ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied :—

" (a) The cost of preparing the scheme amounted to Rs. 4,468. The cost of work done in carrying out the scheme amounted to Rs.92,959.

" (b) It is not a fact that the scheme did not prove a success. It was not finished because the Pilgrim Committee considered that a more comprehensive scheme with a system of underground sewers was desirable, in order to effect a complete solution of the drainage problems of Puri. The scheme, as it stands, forms a satisfactory self-contained system of surface drains for a part of the town which can be used with advantage in addition to any system of sewers that may, in the future be adopted for the town.

" (c) In view of the facts stated above no reply is called for".

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das, asked :—

" (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they give any encouragement to the Ayurvedic system of medicine beyond its recognition as a subject of study by the Bihar and Orissa Sanskrit Association ?

" (*b*) Have the Government of India consulted the views of this Government for the future improvement of the indigenous systems of medicine ?

" (*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by them to ascertain public opinion and to lay on the table their views on the subject ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied :—

" (*a*) A teacher of the Ayuryedic system is maintained in the Dharma Samaj Sanskrit College at Muzaffarpur. Government give no other financial encouragement to the system.

" (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*c*) Collectors and Civil Surgeons were asked to report on the popular estimation of the system. After considering their reports Government decided that no practical good would result from subsidizing the very few schools of indigenous medicine that exist in this province."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked :—

"(a) With reference to their reply (a) to my question in the Council on the 7th March, 1917, on the reconstitution of forests in the Khurda subdividion will the Government be pleased to state if the rules referred to in the reply have been framed ?

" (*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to place them on the table ?

" (*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state if they intend to introduce the forest Panchayat system in the Khurda Subdivision ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Coupland replied :—

" (*a*) and (*b*). The rules are still under the consideration of the local officers and Conservator of Forests.

" (*c*) The answer is in the negative".

APPENDIX - K

Statement showing the number of members of each District Board in actual receipt of pay from Government and number of members who are zamindars or zamindars' agents.

Name of District Board	Number of members in actual receipt of pay from Government	Number of members who are Zamindars or Zamindar's Agents	Number of members of other professions	Total	Remarks
1	2		4	5	6
Patna Division					
Patna	6	18	..	24	
Gaya	6	17	1	24	
Shahabad	7	16	1	24	
Tirhut Division					
Muzaffarpur	6	(*a*) 19		25	(*a*) Includes 7 Indigo Planters.
Saran	7	(*b*) 15	3	25	(*b*) Includes 6 Indigo Planters.
Champaran	5	(*c*) 13	2	20	(*c*) Includes 8 Indigo planters and the Manager, Bettiah Estate.

Darbhanga		7	(*d*)	8		15	(*d*) Includes 6 Indigo Planters
Bhagalpur Division							
Bhagalpur	(*e*)	8		19	3	30	(*e*) Includes the Govt. Pleader.
Monghyr		7		12	5	24	
Purnea		7		12	5	24	
Orissa Division							
Cuttack		7		9	5	21	
Balasore		5		10	1	16	
Puri		7		4	2	13	
Sambalpur	(*f*)	7		14	3	24	(*f*) Includes the Govt. Pleader
Chotanagpur Division							
Ranchi		8		4	6	18	
Hazaribagh		6		4	7	17	
Palamau		5		5	1	11	
Manbhum		7		4	7	18	

APPENDIX - L

Statement showing the number of application for gun licences received and granted during the years 1913-15.

Division	District	Number of applications 1913 Total received	1913 Granted or renewed	1914 Total received	1914 Granted or renewed	1915 Total received	1915 Granted or renewed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Patna	Patna	866	797	804	746	865	780
	Gaya	506	476	583	538	567	545
	Shahabad	1,000	625	1,134	910	812	729
Tirhut	Saran	387	269	293	205	283	217
	Champaran	734	666	761	681	776	671
	Muzaffarpur	1,002	918	894	823	928	862
	Darbhanga	533	404	465	401	480	389
Bhagalpur	Monghyr	554	335	684	372	458	362
	Bhagalpur	321	276	350	266	338	253
	Purnea	649	527	664	516	615	503
	Santal Parganas	726.	656	710	637	678	610
Chota Nagpur	Hazaribagh	1,397	1,244	1,248	1,195	1,309	1,161
	Ranchi	2,071	1,751	1,346	1,213	1,239	979
	Palamau	1,105	1,029	1,047	957	1,034	946
	Manbhum	892	795	860	793	993	834
	Singhbhum	714	560	634	565	620	469

Orissa	Cuttack	627	592	623	537	583	470
	Balasore	338	333	270	268	251	236
	Angul	320	314	445	440	139	138
	Puri	353	185	375	249	276	166
	Sambalpur	374	291	341	286	325	263
	Total	15,419	13,043	14,531	12,598	13,669	11,583

APPENDIX - C

Statement showing the number of Oriya Hindus and Oriya Muhammadans, Bihari Hindus and Bihari Muhammadans drawing a salary of Rs. 50 and upwards, with the name of the Office they hold in the Public Works Department, in the Orissa Division, and clerks employed there.

Oriya Hindus			Oriya Muhammadans		
No.	Rank	Pay	No.	Rank	Pay
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Deputy Collector	400 (local allowance 100)	2	Clerks	50
1	Ziladar	85			..
2	Ziladars	60			..
1	Accounts Clerk	62			
1	Estimator	60			...

1	Temporary Accounts Clerk	60			
1	Sub-Overseer	70	..		
	Total 8 men			Total 2 men	

Bihari Hindus			Bihari Muhammadans		
No.	Rank	Pay	No.	Rank	Pay
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Clerk	75	..	None	
1	Draftsman	55			
	..	..			
	Total 2 men				

APPENDIX - D

Statement showing the total number of Superintendents of Post Offices, Inspectors of Post Offices and 1st grade Postmasters, serving in Bihar and Orissa, and also how many of them are Biharis and Orias

Designation of appointment	Total number of appointments in the grade.	Number of Biharis in the grade.	Number of Oriyas in the garde.
1	2	3	4
1. Superintendents of Post Offices	11	2	Nil
2. Inspectors of Post Offices	23	8	1
3. 1st grade Postmasters (Pay Rs. 200-300)	5	Nil	1

APPENDIX - E

(a) *Statement showing the number of Middle English Schools maintained and aided by each of the District Boards in Orissa, during the years* 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17.

Number of the District Board or Council	Number of schools maintained during the years			Number of schools aided during the years		
	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cuttack	6	6	6	15	19	19
Balasore	1	1	1	12	12	12
Puri	3	3	3	1	1	1
Sambalpur	5	5	5	..	[illegible]	

APPENDIX - E (*Contd.*)

(*b*) *Statement showing the total number of Middle English Schools on 31st March 1917, in the Orissa Division, District by district, and in each Feudatory State*

Name of district	Number of Schools	Name of State	Number of Schools
1	2	3	4
Cuttack	32	Mayurbhanj	5
Balasore	15	Keonjhar	2
Puri	8	Nilgiri	1
Sambalpur	5	Dhenkana	..
Angu	1	Baramba	..
		Athgarh	1
		Tigiria	1
		Khandpara	..
		Ranpur	1
		Nayagarh	1
		Narsinghpur	..
		Daspalla	1
		Hindol	1
		Baud	1
		Athmallik	1
		Talcher	1

		Pal Lahara	—
		Gangpur	1
		Bonai	—
		Bamra	—
		Rairakhol	—
		Patna	1
		Sonepur	1
		Kalahandi	1
Total	61	Total	21

APPENDIX - F

Statement showing the total revenue by major heads for the year 1916-17 *in the Orissa Divisions*

	Revenue Heads	Amount	Remarks
		Rs.	
I	Land Revenue	31,04,000	
II	Opium	2,63,000	
III	Salt	..	
IV	Stamps	9,29,000	
V	Excise	15,81,000	
VI	Provincial Rates	4,50,000	
VII	Customs	1,000	

VIII	Income Tax	1,75,000	
IX	Forest	11,57,000	
X	Registration	1,05,000	
XI	Tributes	85,000	
XII	Interest	23,000	
XVIA	Law and Justice Courts of Law	58,000	
XVIB	Law and Justice Jails	25,000	
XVII	Police	4,000	
XVIII	Ports and Pilotage	..	
XIX	Education	75,000	
XX	Medical (1)	11,000	(1) Medical and Sanitation not distributed.
XXIA	Agriculture	7,000	
XXIB	Scientific, etc., Deposit	1,000	
XXII	Receipts in aid of superannuation	44,000	
XXIII	Stationery etc.	3,000	
XXV	Miscellaneous	53,000	
XXIX	Major Works (Irrigation)	5,80,000	
XXX	Minor Works, etc. (Nevigation)	7,000	
XXXI	Civil Works	35,000	
	Total	77,76,000	

APPENDIX - 'G

Statement showing the total direct expenditure by major heads for the year 1916-17, in the Orissa Division

Expenditure heads	Amount	Remarks
	Rs.	
1. Refunds and Drawbacks	16,000	
2. Assignments, etc.	1,000	
3. Land Revenue	3,67,000	Exclusive of survey figures.
5. Salt	32,000	
6. Stamps	19,000	
7. Excise	78,000	
8. Provincial Rates	4,36,000	
9. Customs	14,000	
10. Income Tax	4,000	
11. Forest	1,21,000	
12. Registration	64,000	
13. Interest on ordinary debt	...	
14. Interest on other obligiation	...	
18. General Administration	1,00,000	
19 A. Law and Justice-Courts of Law	5,09,000	
19 B. Law and Justice Jails	1,13,000	
20. Police	7.76.000	

21. Ports and Pilotage	6,000	
22. Education	8,61,000	
23. Ecclesiastical	10,000	
24. Medical	1,47,000	(1) Medical and Sanitation not distributed.
25. Political	45,000	
26 A. Agriculture	5,0000	
26 B. Scientific, etc.	...	
27. Territorial and Political pensions	29,000	
28. Civil Furlough, etc.	4,000	
29. Super annuation, etc.	1,55,000	
30. Stationery etc.	4,000	
32. Miscellaneous	49,000	
35. Projective Irrigation Works	2,000	
42. Major Works, etc. (Irrigation Works) Working Expenses	4,58,000	
43. Minor Works, etc., Nevigation	1,66,000	
45. Civil Works	8,10,000	
47. Military Works	3,000	On account of Military Works.
Total	54,49,000	

APPENDIX - H

Deputy Collectors

No.	Nominating authorities	Number of appointments made since 1912 in the Province.	Number of appointments made since 1912 in the Orissa Division: Oriyas (Hindus Muhammadans & Christians)	Domiciled Bengalis	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Lieutenant-Governor in Council	16	1	–	1
2.	Commissioners of Divisions	19	4	2	6
3.	Board of Revenue	19	2	..	2
4.	University of Calcutta	4	...	1	1
5.	Heads of Departments	2	1	..	1
	Total	60	8	3	11

Sub-Deputy Collectors

No.	Nominating authorities	Number of appointments made since 1912 in the Province.	Number of appointments made since 1912 in the Orissa Division: Oriyas (Hindus Muhammadans & Christians)	Domiciled Bengalis	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Lieutenant-Governor in Council	19	4	--	4
2.	Commissioners of Divisions	31	6	--	6
3.	Board of Revenue	10	..	1	1
4.	Heads of Departments	15	2	--	2
	Total	75	12	1	13

The University of Calcutta is not asked to make nominations to the Subordinate Executive Service.

APPENDIX - W

Statement showing the number of new Primary Schools required in each district.

District	Area in square miles	Number of Primary Schools required on an area basis i.e., one school (whether Upper Primary Lower Primary or infants) to every 2½ square miles	Number of boys Primary Schools in rural areas on 31st March 1917	10% of the male population in rural areas i.e., No. of boys of Primary School going age in rural areas	No. of schools required on the basis of 60 pupils per school	Number of new schools required or existing school not required On the area basis	On the population basis.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Patna	2,121	848	1,144	68,861	1,147	—296	+3
Gaya	4,714	1,886	1,311	101,594	1,593	+575	+382
Shahabad	4,353	1,740	881	85,439	1,424	+859	+543

Saran	2,683	1,072	1,036	10,848	1,714	+36	+678
Champaran	3,531	1,412	3,776	92,049	1,534	+636	+758
Muzaffarpur	3,036	1,216	1,174	131,699	2,195	+42	+1,021
Darbhanga	3,348	1,340	1,367	136,359	2,272	—27	+905
Monghyr	3,961	1,584	1,151	99,764	1,662	+433	+511
Bhagalpur	4,226	1,692	950	10,585	1,693	+742	+743
Purnea	4,998	2,000	960	99,766	1,662	+1,040	+702
Santal Parganas	5,479	2,192	965	90,987	1,516	+1,227	+551
Cuttack	3,654	1,460	2,980	95,942	1,599	—1,520	—1,381
Balasore	2,085	832	1,607	48,476	808	—775	—799
Angul	1,681	672	223	9,837	164	+449	—59
Puri	2,499	1,000	1,560	48,366	808	—560	—754
Sambalpur	3,824	1,528	220	35,667	594	+1,308	+374
Hazaribagh	6,986	2,796	621	60,796	1,013	+2,175	+392
Ranchi	7,102	2,840	1,085	65,296	1,088	+1,755	+3
Palamau	4,916	1,968	372	33,513	558	+1,596	+186
Manbhum	4,147	1,660	1,010	77,229	1,287	+ 650	+277
Singhbhum	3,938	1,576	376	33,314	555	+1,200	+179

Extract from the proceedings of the Legislative Council for Bihar and Orissa met in the Council Chamber at Patna on Thursday, the 31st January, 1918.

Teaching of Urdu and Sanskrit at the Cuttack Training School

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked :—

"(*a*) Is it a fact that in the Cuttack Training School Urdu is taught as a compulsory subject and Sanskrit was formerly a compulsory subject but is now made optional ?

"(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state when these two innovations were introduced and to specify the objects of their introduction ?

"(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the present number of Hindu students and of Muhammadan students in that school ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied :—

"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(*b*) Urdu was made a compulsory subject in January 1915. The object of the change was to enable trained Hindu teachers to explain difficulties clearly to Muhammadan boys.

Sanskrit was made as optional subject in September 1916. It was considered that students under training were being required to devote too much attention to general subjects and too little to the theory and practice of teaching, while it was felt that, as a rule, a student could not, within the time available in the training school course, learn enough Sanskrit to be of any real use.

"(*c*) In December last there were sixty-eight Hindus and one Muhammadan on the roll.

The new first and third year classes have not yet been formed".

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das, with the permission of the President, asked the following Supplementary Questions—

" Will the Government be pleased to state how many Hindu teachers trained in the Cuttack Training School were employed as teachers in Muhammadan training schools and maktabs during the year 1916-1917?"

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied s—

" An attempt will be made to answer the question at the next meeting of the Council."

Prosecutions for offences Against the Salt Laws In Orissa

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked :—

" Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing or the sea-coast districts of Orissa during 1912-13, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17 respectively.

" (*a*) the number of cases instituted for offences against the salt laws

" (*b*) the number of persons apprehended,

" (*c*) the number of persons convicted,

" (*d*) the amount of fines and forfeitures realized, and " (*e*) the amount disbursed to informers and to persons who arrested offenders ?".

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied :—

" A statement giving the requried information is laid on the table".

APPENDIX I

Statement showing the number of cases instituted for offences against the salt laws for the sea-cast districts of Orissa, during five years from 1912-13 *to* 1916-17.

APPENDIX - T

Statement showing the number of cases instituted for offences against the salt laws for the sea-cost districts of Orissa, during five years from 1912-13 *to* 1916-17.

Year	No. of cases pending at the close of the previous year.	No. of cases instituted during the year	Total number of cases.	Total number of persons apprehended	No. of persons convicted	Amount fines and forfeiture realised	Amount disbursed to informers and to persons who arrested offenders
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Rs. a. p.	Rs. p. a.
1912-13		15	15	15	14	63 8 0	69 0 0
1913-14		16	16	16	16	43 2 0	42 2 0
1914-15	..	29	29	29	14	7 0 0	..
1915-16	15	126	14	142	118	141 12 0	61 4 0
1916-17	22	219	241	243	229	781 6 0	704 10 0

Number of Hindu Teachers Trained in the Cuttack Training School who are Employed as Teachers in Muhammadan Primary Schools or Mahtabs

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked :—

" Will the Government be pleased to state how many Hindu teachers trained in the Cuttack Training School are employed as teachers in Muhammadan primary schools and maktabs during the year 1917 and 1918".

The Hon'ble Mr. Mc Pherson replied :—

" It is improbable that any Hindu teacher trained in the Cuttack training-School should now be teaching in a Muhammadan primary school or maktab, since the school trains teachers for work in secondary schools. The object of the Urdu teaching is to enable all trained teachers to explain clearly to Muhammadan boys in their classes, such difficulties as may from time to time arise. Urdu teaching was introducted in the first grade training schools of Orissa and Chota Nagpur in 1914 with this object as a result of the recommendation of the Muhammadan Education Committee contained in paragraph 16 of their report, and after consultation with local officers and non-official gentlmen. The subject is dealt with in paragraph (10) of the Resolution No. 282-E, dated the 13th February, 1915, on the Report of the Muhammadan Education Committee.

Selection of Candidates for Police Sub Inspectorships

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked .—

" (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawan to the English paragraph in the UTKAL DIPIKA of November 24th, 1917, regarding the selection for police sub-inspectorships of some candidates not domiciled in the districts from which they were selected ?

" (*b*) Are the Government aware of the practice recently introduced in the Madras Presidency of consulting one or two non-official gentlmen at the time of selection by the District Officer of candidates for police sub-inspectorships ?

" (*c*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of introducing this Madras practice in this Province as a safeguard against recurrence of such cases as are complained of by the DIPIKA ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Mc. Pherson replied :—

" (*a*) and (*b*). Yes.

" (*c*) The allegations made in the UTKAL DIPIKA have been examined and it has been found that no cases occurred affording ground for complaint.

" Three vacancies were allotted to the Cuttack district, one of which was reserved for the Inspector General's special list. In these vacancies two Hindu Oriyas and one Muhammadan Oriya were appointed. The candidate from Manbhum was appointed to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway district in a vacancy which is not reserved for Oriyas, but for which domiciled Bengalis are equally eligible. On enquiry the candidate was found actually to be domiciled in Manbhum. In the circumstances no case appears to have arisen for any change in the existing system".

Champaran Agrarian Bill Moved By Govt.

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das :—

" Our Honour".

" The object of legislation should be to leave no room for contention as to the meaning of any particular word. The Hon'ble Mover himself has not been able to give an instance in which the word 'advantage' he likes to retain would be of more use. I would tell the planters :—'you have enjoyed advantage for three score of years on account of the backwardness and ignorance

of the tenants. Now the tenants want advance. We are to decide what to accept. The tenant must advance. You cannot take advantage for a moment more.' I would submit that the fime has come when no more advantage should be given to the planters. Now is the moment for an advance on the part of the tenants."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das, on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Madhusudan Das asked :—

" (*a*) Has the attention of Government been invited to an article headed Orissa a sub-province' in the Oriya of 2nd October 1918 ?

" (*b*) Does the Government propose to consider the question of " instituting a sub-province" in Orissa "at a very early date" as suggested in the last two sentences of paragraph 246 of the " Report on Indian Consitutional Reforms" by His Excellency the Viceroy and the Right Hon'ble Secretary of State for India ?"

The Hon'ble Mc Pherson replied :—

" (*a*) The attention of Government has been drawn to the article in question.

" (*b*) Government are considering what action should be taken in the matter. In their opinion, however, the last sentence of paragraph 246 of the Report must be read in the light of the preceading sentences".

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :—

" (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the correspondence of the Panchayat of the Digambar Jains of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, published in THE STATESMAN of the 1st Novermber, 1918 under the head " The Khandgiri images" ?"

" (*b*) Will the Government be pleased to say

" (1) Whether all the statements made therein are correct ;

" (2) if so, what steps, if any, were taken in respect of the acts of violence committed early in 1914 by

an officer of the Pipli subdivision inspite of the protests of the Jain sevak of the images, and on the 11th March 1915 by a sub-engineer ;"

" (3) What order, if any was passed on the representation of the Jains of Orissa submitted after the first act was done by the officer of the Pipli subdivision ;

" (4) whether before the removal of the three images was ordered, their attention was drawn to the assurance that 'no manner of interference with their religions observances was contemplated ;' which was given to the Jains on their petition objecting to the notification of the Education Department dated June 25th, 1912.

" (5) Whether the wishes and sentiments of the community concerned were consulted before the removal; and

" (6) whether they have ordered the restoration of the images to their cave on Khandgiri and if so, whether they have been returned to the community concerned ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. LISTER REPLIED :—

" The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answers given to the questions asked by the Honble Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :—

" (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to thate if they have received the sanction from the Government of India in respect of the scheme for the engineering school at Cuttack ?".

" (*b*) If the sanction has not been received, will this Govt, be pleased to move the Government of India for the issue of orders on the subject without further delay ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MC PHERSON REPLIED :—

" (*a*) Sanction has not yet been received."

" (*b*) The Government of India were recently addressed on the subject and the hope was expressed that it might now be possible to pass early orders on the scheme."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

" (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state

" (1) whether the inquirieswhich, they stated in their reply to my resolution on the subject in March last, were being made into the question of salt manufacture in the Chilka lake have been completed ;

" (2) if so, what are the results of the inquiries ;

" (3) how far their negotiations with the responsible firm referred to in their reply to my resolution have progressed and with what result ;

" (4) whether the other alternative stated in the reply viz., manufacture under licence by the Raja of Parikud, has been examined ;

" (5) whether any correspondence has passed between this Government and the Government of India on the subject of salt manufacture in Orissa ;

" (6) if so, what was the result of the correspondence;

" (7) whether the Chilka area has been examined by the Madras expert ;

" (8) If so, what are the conclusions reached by him ?

" (*b*) Will the Government lay on the table a copy of the report of the Madras expert, if he has submitted any ?"

" (*c*) Are the Government aware that many private capitalists are willing to start the manufacture if they be granted licences under the excise system ?

" (*d*) Do the Government propose to start the manufacture in Chilka during next summer either on the excise, the modified excise, or the monopoly system ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

" (*a*) (1) and (2) The enquiry has been made by a private firm. The results are still confidential.

" (3) Government are in communication with the

firm and hope for a satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations.

"(4) Government are not aware that the Raja of Parikud has any wish to manufacture salt.

"(5) and (6) The Government of India have been informed of the enquiry and the negotiations.

"(7) Yes, on behalf of the firm previously referred to.

"(*a*) (8) and (*b*). The expert has not submitted any report to Govt.

"(*c*) Government have no information on the subect.

"(*d*) If the Scheme under consideration is taken up, it is expected that preparations for the manufacture of salt will be made immediately."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Are the Government aware of the anxiety and earnestness of the Oriyas of Singhbhum to have Oriya recognized as a court language in that district ?

"(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number and class of schools in Singhbhum in which Oriya is taught ?

"(*c*) Are the Government aware that the spread of Oriya education is very much discouraged and practically arrested in that district by the non-recognition of the language as a vernacular in the courts ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. LISTER REPLIED :

"(*a*) So far as Government are aware there is no strong feeling on the subject.

"(*b*) Oriya is taught in the Chaibassa Zila school, two lower primary schools for boys and one lower primary school for girls.

"(*c*) Oriya has never been recognized as a court language in Singhbhum, but Government are unable to say how far this fact is responsible for its present position as compared with other vernaculars."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabndhu Das asked:—

"(*a*) Is it a fact that no Oriya has been taken as a commissioner of the municipality newly instituted at Chakradharpur in Singhbhum ?

"(*b*) Are the Government aware that excepting the portion near the railway station, Chakradharpur in Porahat is almost entirely inhabited by Oriyas ?

"(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of adequate representation of the Oriya interest in the Chakradharpur Municipality when the next opportunity arises ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied:—

"(*a*) There is no Oriya commissioner at present.

"(*b*) Government are informed that 430 holdings out of 1,016 are occupied by Oriyas.

"(*c*) Government will consider the appointment of an Oriya Commissioner at the next opportunity, if any suitable candidates are available."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

"Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the several districts of the Province suffering from influenza, the number of deaths caused by the epidemic since its first outbreak, and also the steps taken for its prevention and cure in each district ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied:—

"(*i*) Influenza has been prevalent throughout the Province. It has been most severe in Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Singhbhum, Sambalpur and Angul. Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, the Santal Parganas, Palamau and Manbhum have also suffered considerably.

"(*ii*) The vital statistics except in towns are compiled from data supplied by the village chaukidars, who are unable to distinguish influenza from other diseases. It is therefore impossible to say how may deaths have occurred from influenza and its sequel, though the total number have been very large.

"(*iii*) The responsibility for taking preventive and curative measures rests with local bodies. Full instructions as to the proper measures to adopt have been issued to them both by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and by the Sanitary Commissioner, and a large grant has been placed at the disposal of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals for subsidies to local bodies which are unable to meet from their own resources the costs of medicines and other remedial measures. The Inspector General has also engaged a number of sub-assistant surgeons and compounders to meet emergent calls."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

" Will the Government be pleased to give a statement showing in each district-

" (*i*) The number of dispenseries in 1915 and the present number ; and

" (*ii*) the number maintained jointly and severally by local bodies, private subscribers and by Government, indicating the amount obtained from each source ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied:—

" (*i*) Figures for the year 1915 have not been compiled, but a list is placed on the table showing the number of hospitals, dispensaries and other medical institutions in the province in the years 1913 and 1918.

" (*ii*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to statement H appended to the annual return of the hospitals and dispensaries in the Province for the year 1917."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

" (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have taken any steps to give effect to the resolution passed in the last session of the Council for the appointment of non-official chairmen in some of the District Boards of the Province ?

" (*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they have decided which of the District Boards in the

Province will be given that privilege in the first instalment ?

" (c) Will the Government be pleased to state the principle on which the selection of District Boards has been or is to be made for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied:—

" The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to the question put by the Hon'ble Mr. S.K.Sahay."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

" Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the amounts annually spent on instruction, inspections, buildings and furniture for the primary and secondary schools in each Division of the Province from 1912-13 to 1917-18 ?"

The Honble Mr. McPherson replied:—

" A statement, giving the information, so far as it is available, is laid on the table.

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

" Will the Government be pleased to state the estimate of cost of construction of a building on the approved type plan for a primary, middle and a high school in each Division ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied:—

" There is no general type plan for primary schools, nor is it possible to prepare one owing to variations in local conditions. A type plan for middle schools costing Rs.6,500/- has been adopted in several districts. There is no single type plan for high schools, but the cost of the buildings which have been erected for the Government high schools at headquarters ranges from Rs.1,06,-000 to Rs.1,42,000. For further particulars the Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraphs 214 and 215 of the quinquennial report."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

" (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how far the proposal to place all the Middle English Schools

under the Education Department has been given effect to ?"

" (b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Middle English schools in each district transferred from the District Boards to that department during the current years ?

" (c) Do the schools transferred from the control of the District Board to the Education Department show any sign of improvement ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied:—

" (a) The transfer of Middle English schools from the control of local bodies was completed when the aided schools were taken over with effect from the 1st of September, 1918.

" (b) A statement is laid on the table. The managed Middle English schools have been placed under local committees, while the schools formerly aided by District Boards now receive grants-in-aid from provinicial revenues.

" (c) It is too early to state whether the schools have improved. At the time of their transfer they were given grants sufficient to bring the pay of the teachers up to the standard scale. A schedule will be laid before the Finance Committee at their next meeting and they will be asked to find funds to enable the aided schools to be improved."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

" (a) Are the Government aware of the strong universal desire on the part of the people to have Middle English Schools in preference to Middle Vernacular schools ?"

" (b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the number of middle Vernacular schools raised to Middle English standard and the number of Middle English schools reduced to Middle Verncular standard and the number of newly started Middle English Schools in each

of the Divisions of the Province during the current year indicating in the case of reduction the reasons therefor ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied:—

"(*a*) Government are aware that such a desire exists in many places.

"(*b*) The Finance Committee are being invited to include in the budget, provision for grants to two new Middle English Schools in each Division next year.

(*c*) The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Hon'ble Member later on."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Daas asked:—

"(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article. 'The Education Department Circulars' in the EXPRESS of the 25th of October last ?"

"(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of plucked Matriculate students who have taken admission into each of the high schools of the Province after the 1st of August which is fixed as the last day of admission by the Director of Public Instruction in his circular referred to in the article ?"

"(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of allowing the plucked matriculate students who took admission before the 14th of August, that is, within one week after the final instalment of the examination result was published, to appear in the next Matriculation examination from the schools in which they have been admitted ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. McPherson replied:—

"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) The information is not available and its collection would involve an amount of labour not commensurate with the result to be obtained from it.

"(*c*) It has been ascertained that the Director of Public Instruction passed orders early in October fixing August 14th as the latest date for the admission of failed

candidates. Owing to the Puja holidays these orders were not communicated to Inspectors till October 26th in his circular No.9397 of that date."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

"Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of cess fixed in the road cess revaluation in each of the districts in which the evaluation proceedings have been completed before April, 1918 and the amount of cess each was paying before the revaluation ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lister replied:—

"The attention of the Hon'ble Member is drawn to Appendix XL of the annual report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province which will furnish him with the necessary information."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

"Will the Government be pleased to state the mode and principle followed in the revaluation proceedings in calculating cess on rent-free land:, revenue-free estates, and quit-rent tenures, e.g., tanki tenures in Orissa ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lister replied:—

"The attention of the Hon'ble Member is drawn to the Bengal Cess Act, 1880, as amended up to date, which furnishes the necessary information. The provisions of the Act are supplemented by a set of rules and orders issued by the Board of Revenue and incorporated in the Bengal Cess Manual, 1911."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

"(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Municipalities, District Boards, and Local Boards have been reconstituted in the Province since the issue of the Govt. of India's resolution on Local Self-Government in May last ?"

" (*b*) Have the Government taken any steps to give effect as far as practicable, to the spirit and principle of this resolution in the reconsitution of these Boards ?"

" (*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state in how many of these Boards.

" (*i*) Officials and non-officials were rival candidates for the chairmanship and with what results ;

" (*ii*) Official chairmen have been succeeded by non-official chairmen ; and the grounds of such protests and the results thereof ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied:—

" (*a*) and (*b*) Government take no part in the reconstitution of District and Local Boards and they have no information of the number of such Boards which have been reconstituted since the month of May. For the steps taken to replace nominated by elected chairmen of District Board, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to the question put by the Hon'ble Mr. S.K. Sahay."

" In regard to Municipalities Government are considering the question of extending the right of electing their chairmen to those now in Schedule II."

" Twenty-six Municipalities have been reconstituted since the issue of the resolution. Government have received proposals concerning the appointment of a chairman in nine of these cases."

" (*c*) (*i*) So far as Government are aware, in no case were an official and non-official rival candidates for the chairmanship."

" (*c*) (*ii*) In two cases official chairmen have been succeeded by non-official chairmen. "

" (*c*) (*iii*) In one case a protest was made against the election of an official as chairman on the ground that it was opposed to the text and spirit of the resolution quoted by the Hon'ble Member. Government found that there was no substance in the protest and gave their approval to the election."

The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das asked:—

" (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to give an estimate of outturn of the present rice crops in the several districts of the Province ?"

" (*b*) Is it a fact that, owing to the continuous drought in several districts, failure of crops has become inevitable and the people have already begun to feel the pinch somewhat seriously ?"

" (*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state

" (*i*) What steps are now being taken to meet the present difficulties arising from scarcity of food-grains in the local markets in many parts of the province; and

" (*ii*) whether they are preparing any comprehensive scheme of relief measures to meet famine in case that contingency arises ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lister replied:—

" (*a*) A statement showing the estimate is laid on the table".

" (*b*) Scarcity appears to be imminent in some districts."

" (*c*) (*i*) The Government of India have appointed a Food Commissioner to regulate the export and import of food grains between excess and deficit areas. Within this province these duties are discharged by the Director of Civil Supplies.

" (*ii*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply given in answer to the question asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyid Muhammad Naim on the same subject."

APPENDIX 'P

List showing the number of hopitals and dispensaries and other medical institutions in the Province of Bihar and Orissa in the years 1913 *and* 1918.

Year	Classes of Hospitals and Dispensaries				
	I—State public	III—Local Fund	IV—Private aided	Total	(*i*) Police
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6
1913	15	160	20	195	23
1918	22	217	24	263	24

II-State Special			V-Private non-aided		VI-Railway	Total number of dispensaries	Remarks
(*ii*) Forest & Surveys	(*iii*) Canals	(*iv*) others	(*i*) Under Government Supervision	(*ii*) Not under Govt. supervision	-		
7.	8.	9.	10	11.	12.	13.	14.
	4	5	39	27	35	328	
..	4	5	34	48	44	422	

APPENDIX-Q

Divisions	Expenditure on secondary education in 1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Patna	2,21,370	2,50,772	2,89,627	3,34,776	3,69,680	3,64,193
Tirhut	1,79,686	2,07,968	2,49,451	2,91,447	3,20,410	3,58,466
Bhagalpur	2,23,820	2,71,026	3,13,176	3,38,345	3,56,608	3,90,615
Orissa	1,89,354	2,25,410	2,53,920	2,92,161	2,95,562	3,10,403
Chota Nagpur	1,89,159	2,28,716	2,62,409	2,65,766	2,74,156	3,05,884
Total	10,03.389	11,83,892	13,68,583	15,22,490	16,16,416	17,29,561

Expenditure on primary education in					
1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18
8.	9.	10.	11.	12	13.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
3,18,889	3,56,684	4,10,095	4,59,962	4,64.908	4,81,912
3,82,333	4,70,231	5,62,495	5,81,673	5,38,767	5,92,595
4,50,730	5,18,854	5,83,965	5,93.130	6,18,147	6,61,443
6,56,522	7,25,144	7,43,272	7,25,390	7,29,740	7.07,298
3,21,812	3,85,579	4,30,312	4,64.465	4.74,575	4,79,228
21,40.286	24,55,492	27,30,139	28,24,620	28,76,137	29,22,476

Expenditure on Inspection in					
1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18
14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
70,519	88,915	97,857	93,160	95,300	91,241
72,407	90,427	93,663	90,602	91,503	94,833
87,567	1,05,063	1,05,197	1,08,418	1,01,748	1,08,077
97,552	1,15,389	1,04,320	1,16,474	1,19,747	1,15.011
81,321	94,747	1,01,531	1,10,613	1,07,573	1,04,606
4,09,306	4,94,577	5,02,588	5,19,267	5,15,871	5,13,768

Expenditure on building, furniture and apparatus					
1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18
20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
34,944	41,756	61,955	1,38,398	1,83,330	82,847
20,099	58,573	98,344	1,15,426	1,29,409	90,226
84,507	93,099	92,995	76,336	1,45,105	1,34,915
83,889	78,823	85,118	80,087	80,908	70,316
1,43,435	2,85,464	85,758	69,898	83,334	81,084
3,66,874	5,57,715	5,24,150	4,80,145	6,22,096	4,59,388

Note : Separate figures are not available for the expenditure by the Public Works Department fn the different divisions.

APPENDIX-R

Statement showing the number of middle English Schools in each district transferred from the District Board to the Education Department

Name of District	Managed Schools	Aided Schools
1	2	3
Patna	3	4
Gaya	1	7
Shahabad	2	5
Saran	—	2
Champaran	2	2
Muzaffarpur	—	3
Darbhanga	—	8
Monghyr	7	12
Bhagalpur	4	9
Purnea	1	5
Hazaribagh	—	4
Ranchi	1	3
Palamau	2	1
Manbhum	2	8
Cuttack	5	15
Balasore	1	11
Puri	3	1
Sambalpur	5	1
Total	39	701

APPENDIX-S

Percentage outturn of winter rice autumn rice in each district of the Province in 1918.

(As reported in crop forecasts recently submitted by Dist. Officers)

District	Winter rice	Autumn rice
1	2	3
Patna	53 percent	58 percent
Gaya	46 -do-	46 -do-
Shahabad	57 -do-	42 -do-
Saran	57 -do-	75‡-do-
Champaran	77 -do-	700 -do-
Muzaffarpur	75 -do-	67 -do-
Darbhanga	66 -do-	78 -do-
Monghyr	34 -do-	62 -do-
Bhagalpur	52 -do-	62 -do-
Purnea	72 -do-	75 -do-
Santal Parganas	53 -do-	54 -do-
Cuttack	50 -do-	40 -do-
Balasore	32 -do-	43 -do-
Angul	42 -do-	50‡-do-
Puri	68 -do-	75‡-do-
Sambalpur	62 -do-	38 -do-
Hazaribagh	31 to 46 -do-	77‡-do-
Ranchi	37 -do-	67 -do-
Palamau	83(a)-do-	66 -do-
Manbhum ...	31 -do-	46 -do-
Singhbhum ...	32 -do-	32 -do-

‡ As reported in the preliminary forecast of bhadai crops for 1918. Final forecasts have not yet been received for these districts

(a) The Deputy Commissioner of Palamau reported on the 11th October that the outturn of winter rice would be 83 percent, if there was rain within a week; but there has been no rain since then. The second forecast of winter rice has not yet been received from him.

Extracts from the proceedings of the Council met in the Council Chamber at Patna on Wednesday, the 22nd January, 1919

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED:

"Will the Government be pleased to state the number of middle vernacular schools raised to middle English standard and the number of middle English Schools reduced to middle vernacular standard and the number of newly-started middle English Schools in each of the divisions of the Province during the current year, indicating in the case of reduction the reason therefor ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

"A Statement is laid on the table."

Extract from proceedings of a meeting of the Council met in the Council Chamber at Patna on Tuesday, the 1*st April*, 1919.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state —

"(*a*) at what stage the proposal for the imposition of a terminal tax for Puri is now pending ;

"(*b*) when, if at all, it is likely to be given effect to ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON REPLIED :

"Government are taking power for the imposition of a terminal tax at Puri in the amendment of the Lodging House Act which they hope to introduce during the next session of the Council".

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state (*i*) when the Bengal Timber Trading Company were first allowed to work in the forests of the Singhbhum district, (ii) The forest divisions included in their lease, (*iii*) who were working in these forests before ?

"(*b*) Is it a fact (i) that the Bengal Timber Trading Company have been given a monopoly and have been assured against all competition; and (*ii*) that the Indian contractors who were pioneers in the field, have been pushed aside inspite of their readiness to pay higher rates ?

"(*c*) Are the Government aware of an order recently issued on the Indian contractors who were supplying timbers and sleepers to the Munition Board to the effect that they could get work only on condition that they would saw B. G. sleepers exclusively and sell them all to the Bengal Timber Trading Company only ?

"(*d*) Is it a fact that the Bengal Timber Trading Company will have their lease renewed again ? If so, when ?

"(e) Will the Government be pleased to direct the adoption by the Forest Department of the system of public auction in leasing out the coupes in preference to settling them with an individual firm ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK REPLIED :

"(*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) The company first obtained a lease in the Samta and Koina ranges of the Singhbhum forest division in 1909. In 1912 they obtained a further lease of the Porahat forests then in the same division but now a separate forest division.

"(*iii*) Various petty timber contractors.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*iii*) The company have a monopoly for the periods of their leases, which both run to the 30th June, 1920, with the option of a renewal till the 30th June, 1925, provided the company construct a saw-mill and lay down a tramway. The leases were granted to the company because it was found that the auction system failed to get rid of the outturn on favourable terms and that under it the full yield which, in the interests of the forests should have been cut, was not being cut. The question was not merely one of rates of the amount of capital available and of the ability of the lessee to cut the

quantities, which the economical working of the forests required.

"(*c*) Government understand that some such order was issued, but are not fully informed of the source and precise terms of the order.

"(*d*) The conditions regarding renewal are stated in the answer to (*b*).

"(*e*) The auction system is generally in force. The question of applying it to these forests will be considered in due course."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"In reply to my question on the 7th March, 1917, regarding reconstitution of forests in the Khurda sub-division, the Government said that the Commissioner had been asked to submit, in consultation with the Conservator of Forests, detailed rules for the management of demarcated and undemarcated forest areas :

"Will the Government be pleased to state —

"(*i*) if these rules have been framed ; and

"(*ii*) if they intend to publish them for public criticism before they are finally approved by Government ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK REPLIED :

"(*i*) Yes.

"(*ii*) The rules finally approved by the Local Government have already been published in Part II of the Bihar and Orissa Gazette of the 22nd January, 1919. Rules framed under section 31 of the Forest Act are not published previous to notification."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state —

"(*a*) If His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor received a memorial from the people of Khurda during his last visit to the Chilka lake ;

"(*b*) The points raised in the memorial ; and

"(*c*) The order, if any, which the Government have been pleased to pass on each of the points ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK REPLIED :

"(*a*) and (*b*) It is presumed that the memorial is that dated the 25th December, 1918 in which the following requests were preferred :

"(*i*) that early measures be organised for the relief of the famine and that remission of rents be made ;

"(*ii*) that the manufacture of salt in the Chilka Lake be revived ;

"(*iii*) that forest boundaries be altered and laid down at a safe distance from the inhabited parts with a view to secure convenience and safety to the villages and that panchayat system be introduced in the forest administration ;

(*iv*) that a munsif's court be established at Khurda.

"(*c*) A report has been called for from the Commissioner on items (*iii*) and (*iv*). The other items are already receiving attention."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased —

"(*a*) to state (1) the number of teachers and inspecting officers in the Education Department of the Province, who have passed the entrance or matriculation examination or who were plucked in the F. A. or I. A. or I.Sc. examinations (2) whether these teachers and inspecting officers of equal qualifications are treated on an equal footing with regard to their pay and promotion ; and

"(*b*) to lay on the table a copy of the rules regulating the pay and prospects of these officers ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

"(*a*) (1) The number is 129.

"(2) Forty-nine are inspecting officers and 80 are teachers. Of the former, 32 are members of the subordinate educational service and 10 are outside the grades.

The 39 officers in the subordinate educational service were appointed to that service before it was decided that none but graduates should be recruited as sub-inspectors. They are eligible for promotion to class V, but not further as their qualifications are not adequate for deputy inspectorships. The remaining 10 officers were recruited for posts in the lower subordinate educational service and have now been given special posts on Rs. 50,40,30 or 25. They will be promoted to the subordinate educational service if they pass the intermediate examination.

"Of the 80 teachers, 12 are in the subordinate educational service, 26 in the vernacular teachers service and 42 outside the grades. All those in the subordinate educational service have other qualifications besides matriculation and are eligible for promotion to any grade in the service. The 26 teachers in the vernacular teachers service may rise to the top of that service (Rs. 50). The teachers outside the grades may also rise to Rs. 50 in upgraded posts, the value of such posts being Rs.50, 40, 30 or 25, as already stated, and they will be promoted to the subordinate educational service if they pass the intermediate examination.

"(*b*) There are no rules dealing specially with non-graduates."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state for the information of the Council —

"(*a*) the number and names of public bodies or associations in the Province which are recognised by Govt., indicating the period of standing of each and the object for which it was instituted ;

"(*b*) the rights and privileges of such bodies ; and

"(*c*) the rules, if any, for the recognition of public bodies" ?

THE HON'BLE MR. MCPHERSON REPLIED :

"A list of the leading associations of the Province recognized by Government for purposes of consultation

and the like is laid on the table. There are besides numerous district associations most of which are branches of the corresponding provincial or divisional associations. Recognition is not a formal matter and does not carry any particular rights or privileges. Government use their discretion in consulting these associations, regard being paid to their constitution, the nature of the subject under consultation and other considerations. . There are no hard and fast rules to regulate the matter."

Extract from proceedings of the Council met in the Council Chamber at Ranchi on Friday, the 29th August, 1919

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state—

"(1) The districts which are more or less affected by scarcity, distress or famine ;

"(2) The number of gratuitous relief centres opened in each of these districts giving (*i*) the source or sources from which funds are supplied for such relief ; (*ii*) the amount contributed by each source and the amount actually spent up to the end of June last, and (*iii*) the number of persons receiving gratuitous relief in each of these centres,

"(3) the amount of takavi advanced in each district ;

"(4) the amount spent on relief work stating how much has been paid by the Government and how much by local bodies ;

"(5) the number of deaths in each of the districts during May, June and July last as compared with the number in the two previous years in the correspodning months ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK REPLIED :

"A statement containing the information, as far as available, is laid on the table."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Is it a fact that the members of the subordinate executive service have submitted a memorial to the Govt. for raising the pay and prospects of the service ?

"(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they have passed any order on the memorial ?

THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY REPLIED :

"(*a*) Yes,

"(*b*) Their memorials are still under consideration."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state —

"(*i*) in which of the colleges of the Province, tuition fees have been raised ;

"(*ii*) the rate of increase in different classes in each of these colleges ;

"(*iii*) the number of students admitted this session into the first and third year classes of each of the colleges of the Province as compared with the numbers in the preceding two years." ?

THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY REPLIED :

"(*i*) Tuition fees have been raised at the Patna College, the Ravenshaw College, the Greer Bhumihar Brahman College, the Bihar National College and the Diamond Jubilee College.

"(*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

"(*iii*) A statement is laid on the table ".

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state —

"(*i*) The number of free-studentships in the different colleges of the Province ;

"(*ii*) the dates of their institution ;

"(*iii*) The number of students in each college when these free studentships were first created and the present number ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY REPLIED :

"A statement embodying the available information is laid on the table."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Is it a fact that the hostel fees have been raised in some colleges ?

"(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the names of the colleges and the rate of the increase ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY REPLIED :

"(*a*) and (*b*) Except in the Tej Narayan Jubilee College where a seat rent of Re. 1 was introduced last year for the first time, hostel fees have not been raised at any college. They have been reduced at the Patna and Ravenshaw Colleges, but the governing bodies have been empowered to levy an additional charge to cover the cost of servants, renewal of furniture and contingencies, which was previously borne partly by Government and partly by the students themselves, but with which in future Government will have no concern. The hostel fees now levied, plus this additional charge, are less than the combined fees under the system previously in force."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article 'Oriya in Singhbhum, published in THE ORIYA of the 6th August 1919 ?

"(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken upon the resolution of the Singhbhum Utkal Sabha quoted in the article ?

"(*c*) Is it a fact that Oriyas of different villages of the Singhbhum District have made petitions to the Deputy Commissioner for the establishment of Oriya Primary schools in their localities ?

"(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many such petitions the Deputy Commissioner received upto the end of July last ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY REPLIED :

"(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(*b*) The Divisional Inspector of Schools was instructed to secure an Oriya for the post, if possible.

"(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative..

"(*d*) Eight such petitions were received by the Deputy Commissioner up to the 10th March, 1919. Government have no information of the receipt of any petition subsequent to that date."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state—

"(*a*) the number of seats reserved for the students of Bihar and Orissa in the Calcutta Medical College ;

"(*b*) If all the seats are filled up this year ;

"(*c*) how many of the seats are for Orissa ;

"(*d*) if all the Orissa seats are occupied by Orissa students ; and

"(*e*) the number of candidates from Orissa for admission this year ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. COLLINS REPLIED :

"(*a*) Eighteen places are reserved for students of Bihar and Orissa in the Medical College, Calcutta.

"(*b*) Thirteen places were filled this year. Twenty-one candidates in all were nominated by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bihar and Orissa, but eight failed to join the college and five places were therefore forfeited.

"(*c*) and (*d*) The number of places for Oriya students is not fixed, but of the six scholarships annually awarded two are reserved for Oriyas. Four Oriya students were selected this year of whom three were given scholarships. Only two joined the College.

"(*d*) There were sixteen candidates from Orissa of whom eight were not qualified for admission."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED AS A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :

"Will Govt. be pleased to state what are the qualifications necessary for admission into the Calcutta Medical College ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. COLLINS REPLIED :

"The information will be given to the Hon'ble Member afterwards."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

"Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the extent of areas in the several districts of the Frovince liable to flood ;

(*b*) (1) the extent of areas in each district affected by flood this year, and

(2) the. extent of damage caused thereby ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) The information asked for is not available.

(*b*) The worst floods this year were in the Puri district. The extent of damage caused in each district affected by floods is indicated in the extracts from the reports of the local officers which are laid on the table.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased —

(*a*) to state whether the contingency of flood affected revenue in any district ; and

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, to give an estimate of loss of revenue in each district during the last fifteen years ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) For the rules regarding suspensions and remissions of land revenue on the ground of floods or other argicultural calamity, the hon'ble member is referred to page 47-51 of the Tauzi Manual.

(*b*) No separate statistics of the remissions granted on account of floods are available

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Is it a fact that considerable areas in the coastal districts of Orissa are left unprotected by embankments?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the extent of such areas in each district ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state their present policy with regard to the river embankments in Orissa ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. CLAYTON :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Accurate figures are not available ; approximately about twenty-five per cent is unprotected in each district.

(*c*) The policy is explained in paragraph 3 of the preamble to the Rules for the Guidance of District Standing Committees, a copy of which is laid on the table.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the accounts of flood in the Puri district published in the Oriya weekly, THE SAMAJ, in its issue of the 25th October last ?

(*b*) Is a fact that the five persons mentioned in the account died by drowning in the flood ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Four men were drowned while crossing the Dhanua river in a dugout which capsized owing to the strong wind. Another man, while attempting to pass through flood-water of the Dala river on the ridge of a paddy field, lost his balance and was drowned. None of them, it is reported, knew how to swim.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the paragraphs on famine published in THE SAMAJ in its issues of the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th of October 1919 ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that several cases of death from starvation have occurred in the Puri district during the present distress ?

(*c*) Have the Government taken any steps to ascertain the real cause of death in the particular instances noted by that paper in the issues of the 11th and 25th October 1919 ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government have no information of any such death.

(*c*) No specific instance of any death appears to have been given in the issue of the 11th October. The Collector has been asked to report on the allegations made in the issue of the 25th October.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur directed an enquiry into the present state of affairs of some of the religious endowments of that district in September last ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state (1) the result of that enquiry and (2) whether they have taken any action on it ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) An enquiry was directed in September 1918.

(*b*) (1) A report was submitted to the Local Government in April, 1919.

(2) Action has been postponed pending the passing into law of the Bill which is now before the Imperial

Legislative Council to provide more effectual control over the administration of charitable and religious trusts.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) With reference to their answer to my question in the meeting of the 22nd January 1919 regarding Endowment Committees under Act XX of 1863, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision on the comments of the District Judge of Cuttack on certain defects in the Act ?

(*b*) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take for the better administration of religious endowments in the Province ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

The comments made by the District Judge of Cuttack on certain defects in the Act will be considered by the Local Government after the Bill to provide more effectual control over the administration of charitable and religious trusts, which has recently been introduced into the Imperial Legislative Council has become law.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Is it a fact that the Indian contractors and timber merchants of the Porahat and Singhbhum forests made a memorial to His Honour praying for the reinstitution of the auction system in leasing out forests ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what order, if any, they have passed on the memorial ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Bengal Timber Trading Company have been granted an extension of their lease upto 1925 ?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Company have fulfilled the condition in their agreement regarding the establishment of tramways and saw-mills ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the receipts from the sale of dry trees by the auction system in Singhbhum and Porahat forests last October was considerably larger than what was usually obtained by the system previously followed ?

(*f*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to introduce the auction system with regard to green trees ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy of the resolution of Government in reply to the memorial is laid on the table.

(*c*) The company already have an option of extending their leases till the 30th June, 1925.

(*d*) The company already have been allowed an extension of the period within which the saw-mill and the tramway in the Porahat forests must be on the spot and in process of construction, to December 20th, 1920. This extension was necessitated by the difficulty of transporting from England the materials, which had already been purchased.

The period within which a tramway and saw-mill are to be constructed under the terms of their lease in the Samta and Koina Ranges of Singhbhum will not expire till June 20th, 1921.

(*e*) The Conservator has been asked to report.

(*f*) The auction system cannot be introduced for green trees till the company's leases expire.

APPENDIX-A

Name of Division	Number of M.V.Schools raised to M.E.status, in 1918	Number of M.E.Schools reduced to M.V.status in 1918	Number of newly started M.E. Schools in 1918	Remarks
Patna Division	4	Nil	3(*i*)	(*i*) Two of these not yet recognized.
Tirhut Division	1	Nil	5	
Bhagalpur Division	2(*ii*)	Nil	4(*iii*)	(*ii*) Recognized from the 1st of January, 1919. (*iii*) Threc of these not yet recognized.
Chota Nagpur Division	Nil	Nil	2(*iv*)	(*iv*) One of these not yet recognized.
Orissa Division	2	3(*a*)(*b*)(*c*)	2	(*a*) Owing to its low roll number and attendance (*b*) Owing to general mis-management, inefficient and ill paid staff and defective hostel accommodation. (*c*) Owing chiefly tc the low scale of its income and expenditure.

APPENDIX - G

List of associations recognized by the Govt.

Name of association	Object of association
1	2
1. Bihar Landholders' Association (Patna)	To protect the interests of the landholders of Bihar and the general advancement of the Province.
2. Bihar Planters' Association (Tirhut)	To protect the rights and interests of the indigo planting industry in Bihar.
3. Bihar Provincial Moslem League (Bankipore)	To promote the political interests of the Muhammdans of Bihar.
4. Bihar Provincial Association (Bankipore)	To promote political and educational advancement, economic progress, sanitary improvement, union and discouragement of litigation by means of arbitration.
5. Pradhan Bhumihar Brahman Sabha (Patna)	To ameliorate and improve the social, moral and educational condition of the community.
6. Bengali Settlers' Association (Patna)	To protect the interests of the Bengali community in Bihar and Orissa.
7. Maithil Mahasabha (Tirhut)	To promote social reform and the economic develop- of the community.
8. Tirhut Landholders' Association (Tirhut)	To safeguard the interests of persons connected with land and landed properties.

9. Moslem League (Tirhut)	To protect and advance the political and other rights and interests of the Indian Musalmans and to promote union between the Musalmans and other communities of India.
10. Bhagalpur Landholders' Association (Bhagalpur)	To protect the rights and interests of the landholding classes and to promote the general well-being of all classes in the Bhagalpur Division.
11. The Bhagalpur Muhammadan Association (Bhagalpur)	(*a*) To promote feelings of loyalty towards the British Government. (*b*) To protect and advocate by all legitimate constitutional means the interests of the Muhammadan community. (*c*) To adopt measures for general advancement.
12. Orissa Association (Cuttack)	To further the cause of Local Self-Government in Orissa and to promote the general welfare of the province of Orissa.
13. Orissa Muhammadan Association (Cuttack)	To safeguard the interests of the Muhammadan community of Cuttack in particular, and of other parts of Orissa in general, in the educational, social and moral aspects.
14. Orissa Landholders' Assocation (Cuttack)	To promote co-operation among all classes of landholders in Orissa, to safeguard, promote and protect their interests by constitutional means ; To establish healthy relations between landlords and tenants.

15. All Orissa Bengali Settlers' Association (Cuttack)	To ameliorate the condition of the Bengali settlers in in Orissa.
16. Domiciled Bengalis' Association (Cuttack)	To ameliorate the moral, intellectual and political condition and for representing the grievances and claims of the genuine domiciled Bengalis of Orissa.
17. Ranchi Landholders' Association (Ranchi)	To protect the interests of landholders in Chota Nagpur Division.
18. The Association of Colliery Managers in India (Manbhum)	(*a*) To protect the interests of colliery managers. (*b*) To watch the progress of legislation as affecting the profession of mining engineers. (*c*) To communicate the collective views of the profession, when necessary. (*d*) For the better control of labour, etc.
19. Kodarma Mica Mining Association (Hazaribagh)	To preserve and further the interest of mica mining lessees.
20. Village Panchayat Association (Gaya)	To promote voluntary arbitration.
21. Indian Mining Association (Calcutta)	To protect by every legitimate means the interests of those engaged in developing the mining industries of India.
22. Indian Mining Federation (Calcutta)	To aid and stimulate the development of mining industry in India.

APPENDIX - 5

Districts which more or less by scarcity	Number of gratuitous relief centres	Amounts contributed for gratuitous relief up to July 26th			Amount spent to July 26th
		By Government	By District Board	Other wise	
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
	68	(*a*) 2,00,000	—	3,500 (Provincial Charitable Relief Fund)	80,763
Bhagalpur	80	(*a*) 1,60,000	8,047	21,000 (By private local subscription)	80,000
Santal Parganas	25	(*a*) 1,00,000	11,890	428 (Private Charitable Relief Fund) 1,000 (Provincial Charitable Relief Fund)	30,298

Cuttack	42	2,000	2,053	2.000 (Provincial Charitable Relief Fund)	(*b*) 2,053
	(*c*) 22	Nil	Not known	Not known	Not known
Manbhum	Nil	—	—	—	—
Singhbhum	Nil	—	—	—	—
Ranchi	11 in Sadr.	19,600	—	2,000 (Provincial Charitable Relief Fund)	4,236
Monghyr	Nil	—	—	—	—

Number of persons receiving gratuitous relief on July 26th	Amount of takavi	Amount spent on relief works		Amount spent on test works	
		By Govt.	By District Board	By Govt.	By District Board
7	8	9	10	11	12
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
8,118	1,45,000	43,935	—	26,215	—
9,663	6,95,000	48,000	—	—	32,996
8,256	3,25,000	108	—	—	1,542
5,560	1,35,000	—	—	—	—
2,659	80,000	—	—	—	4,388
—	1,10,000	—	—	—	18,561
—	1,00,000	—	—	(d) 21,090	—
1,445	3,50,000	—	—	—	850
—	1,35,000	—	—	—	1,100

Deaths from all causes: May 1917	May 1918	May 1919	June 1917	June 1918	June 1919	July 1917	July 1918	July 1919	Remarks
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
579	850	1,258	407	529	1,435	397	543	1,775	(*a*) Including amounts for relief works.
4,967	9,318	7,501	5,129	7,835	6,896	6,155	6,627	7,000	
4,039	4,462	4,707	4,359	4,166	6,220	5,008	4,917	7,800	
4,744	6,274	9,502	3,699	5,180	10,156	4,203	5,740	9,870	(*b*) This is incomplete as the amount spent by private persons is not yet known.
2,668	2,718	4,975	2,040	2,325	7,620	3,369	3,346	8,585	(*c*) Eleven under non-official and 11 under official agency, the expenditure being met out of the funds of the Dist. Charitable. Relief Fund.
1,090	1,116	1,698	881	1,133	1,596	1.099	1,618	1,479	(*d*) Out of Rs. 30,000 placed at the disposal of the District Committee.
2,569	2,750	2,576	2,295	2,764	3,482	3,284	5,174	4,808	
4,662	13,321	5,096	4.315	9.315	5,551	5,241	7,309	6.834	

APPENDIX - T

Statement showing the rate of increase of fees in different classes of colleges.

Name of college	I. A.		I. Sc.		B. A. Pass	
	Old rate	New rate	Old rate	New rate	Old rate	New rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Patna College	6	6	6	7	6	7
Ravenshaw College	4	5	4	6	4	6
Greer Bhumihar Brahman College	4	5	4	6	4	6
Bihar National College	4-8	5	5	5	4-8	5
Diamond Jubilee College	4-8	5	..	..	..	..

B.A. Honours		B.Sc. Pass		B.Sc. Honours		M.A.		M.Sc.	
Old rate	New rate	Old rate	New rate	Old rate	New rate	Old rate	New rate	Old rate	New rate
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
6	8	6	8	6	9	6	10	6	11
4	7	4	7	..	..	..	..		
..	..	..	..			..			
..	..	5	5	..					
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX -U

Statement showing the number of admissions in the first and third year classes of colleges.

Name of College	First Year			Third Year		
	1917	1918	1919	1917	1918	1919
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Patna College	180	155	155	84	93	92
Ravenshaw College	223	196	184	85	73	67
Greer Bhumihar Brahman College	115	132	134	22	41	21
Bihar National College	272	274	163	76	86	93
Tej Narayan Jubilee College	204	202	132	89	110	36
St. Columba's College	71	72	45	14	29	29
Diamond Jubilee College	34	41	23	..	..	..

APPENDIX -V

Statement to show the distribution of free-studentships in colleges of Bihar and Orissa.

Name of college	Number of free-studentships in the college	Date of the instituton of free studentships	Number of students in the College at date in Col.3	Number of students in the College at present	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
Patna College	6	1908	209	504	
Ravenshaw College	6	1909	252	514	Over and above these one free and one half-free studentships are usually granted each year out of interest on the Ravenshaw College Improvement Fund.
Greer Bhumihar Brahman College		..	..	..	
Bihar National College		—	—	800	Free-studentships are allowed to between 5 and 6 per cent of the total.
Tej Narayan Jubilee College	21	1890	101	580	

St. Columba's College	..	No free-studentships have ever been granted.
Diamond Jubilee College	79	Free-studentships are allowed up to a limit of 5 per cent of the number of students on the roll.

APPENDIX - I

Puri : The damage is confined to the three thanas of Balipatna, Nimapara and Gop, and the extent of the loss of the rice crop is shown in the following statements :

1. *Balipatna*

No. of villages affected	Extent of loss of rice crops.
16	12 to 13 annas
13	8 to 12 annas
5	4 to 8 annas
7	less than 4 annas

The damage in this police station would not have occurred, but for the cutting of the Kushabadra bandh at Athantar.

2. *Nimapara*

41	12 to 16 annas
22	8 to 12 annas
15	4 to 8 annas
4	less than 4 annas

3. *Gop*

85	12 to 16 annas
8	8 to 12 annas
8	4 to 8 annas
5	less than 4 annas

With the exception of the villages damaged by the breach in the embankment of the Sur lake, this area is inundated every year. The inundation was worse this year owing to the breach at Athantar, through which a large portion of the water of the Kushbhadra flowed into the Dhanua. Much of the flooded tract has been enriched by deposit of silt.

Santal Parganas : In consequence of the heavy rainfall on the 20th July the river Bansloi overflooded its banks. The Subdivisional Officer of Pakur reports that the flood-water entered Maheshpur itself causing the collapse of several houses, including the liquor shop there.

Three houses in Katgola.	
Twelve houses in Chaptara	All in thana
Fourteen houses in Englishpara	Maheshpur
Four houses in Sonapara	

have been damaged. No less of human life or cattle has been reported.

Bhagalpur : There are two floods in the river, one in the second weak of August and another in the second week of September. The first flood was nearly two or three feet less in height than the second flood which was nearly equal to the flood of 1917.

Neither of the floods took the people by surprise. By their experience of 1917 and by timely issue of warning by police to the people of the affected area they were on the alert and thus no loss of life was reported. The loss of mud-houses was also less, the people in the affected area had substituted in most cases tatti houses for mud-walled houses. No loss of life has been reported to me, the people being already warned against the flood in time. The damage to house property is great, all the remaining mud-walled houses within the area have tumbled down or are tumbling. The maize crop which was excellent in this area was almost totally destroyed. My estimate for the damage of the crop is at least one lakh of maunds of maize. *Monghyr :* Owing to the sudden rise of the Ganges the Bhadai crops of the diaras have mostly been lost except in one or two parts where early sowings enabled about half the crops to be cut before the flood.

Shahabad : The worst damage was done in the tract near the confluence of the Ganges and Sone. In this area the bhadai crop was practically destroyed and a number of houses washed away.

Taking the sadar subdivision as a whole the damage to the bhadai may be estimated at twelve annas. There was also slight damage to paddy seedling in Sandes police station.

The reports of damage done to the Buxar subdivision are incomplete, as the floods are still out in many places.

The flood was not at all abnormal, the bhadai in the area affected is a catch crop and the damage done will be more than made up for the improved prospects for rabi.

Extract from the proceedings of the Council met in the Council Chamber at Patna on Friday, the 6th February, 1920.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED

(*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have prepared a scheme of expansion of primary education in the Province for the next ten years ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of the scheme on the table ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. COLLINS :

(*a*) A separate programme has been prepared for each district, in accordince with the principles laid down in the late Mr. Coupland's circular letter No. 37-E, dated the 22nd August, 1916, a copy of which is placed on the table. These programmes are now under examination in the Secretariate and it is proposed to return them, with such comments as are necessary in each case, for final adoption by the District Board concerned.

(*b*) The statements submitted to Government are abstracts of detailed programmes prepared in each district and would not be easily intelligible to the public. As soon as all the programmes have been approved, the Local Government propose to sum up the result in a form which will make it clear in what way the objects in view can best be attained.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Referring to their reply to a question of mine on the subject at the last meeting of the Council on the 28th November 1919, will the Government be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate of Puri has made an

enquiry into the allegations of deaths from starvation in the distressed parts of the district ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the results of the enquiry for the information of the Council ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Careful enquiries have been made by the local officers but no instance of death from starvation could be found. The only concrete case alleged in the Samaj is that of Raghab Raut of Pirbazar who according to the statements of his relations died of fever. He was not entirely without means and lived less than half a mile from the centre of gratuitous relief opened at Turintira, to which he never applied for assistance although his close relatives received such assistance. He was a tenant of the President of the "Famine Enquiry Committee" and Secretary of the Utkal Union Conference.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPANBANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Are the Government aware that the Utkal Union Conference at its last sitting at Puri on the 27th December 1919, passed a resolution urging the necessity of an enquiry into the actual condition in the flood and famine affected areas in the district of Puri by a committee of officials and non-officials ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the conference authorities have approached the Government with a request to depute some reliable officers to co-operate on such a committee with certain non-officials appointed by the Conference ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to give the co-operation sought by the Conference for the purpose of an impartial enquiry ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government do not consider that any useful

purpose would be served by a joint enquiry of the kind suggested by the Conference.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Is it a fact that in the resolution above referred to, the Utkal Union Conference further urged the suspension of revenue and remission of Chaukidari tax in the affected areas ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision on this part of the resolution of the conference ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased to state when they propose to start the next land revenue settlement in Orissa ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

It is proposed to begin operations with a view to revising the land revenue settlement in Orissa in the financial year 1921-22.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased to state-

(*a*) what progress has been made in the Department of Industries since the appointment of the Inspector of Industries, and

(*b*) whether any scheme has been prepared for the development of cottage industries in the Province ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON

(*a*) The Inspector of Industries, who is now designated the Textile Expert to Government, is concerned only with textile industries. He has toured over most of the Province to acquaint himself with local conditions and

has also visited Madras and the Central Provinces with a view to ascertaining how the problem is being dealt with there. His reports confirm the view that in Bihar and Orissa the organization of peripatetic weaving parties is the best means of affording help to the handloom industry at present. One such party has been engaged in and about Ranchi for there or four years. A new party has been working since August last at Madhubani in the Darbhanga district, where it is meeting with considerable success in the introduction of the fly-shuttle. Parties have recently been organized in the Cuttack and Sambalpur district in the place of the schools formerly in existence there, and are just beginning work.

(*b*) Apart from weaving, which is by far the most important cottage industry in the province, no scheme has yet been prepared for the development of such industries.

Extract from the proceedings of the Council met in the Council Chamber at Ranchi on Friday, the 30th July, 1920,

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Are the Government aware of a strong desire on the part of the Oriyas to have provision for post-graduate teaching in the Ravenshaw College ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Oriya students in the post graduate classes in the Patna College ?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the Oriya B.L. students in Calcutta have the advantage of attending post-graduate classes under the University there ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of opening M.A. Classes in one or two subjects at least along with the B. L. Classes in the Ravenshaw College to give the Oriya graduates the same facilities as they are now enjoying in Calcutta.

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state when the chair for imparting post-graduate teaching in the Raven-

shaw College for which the Maharani of Sonepur has made a donation of Rs.50,000, is likely to be instituted?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) Government are aware that many educated Oriyas are in favour of the measure.

(*b*) Five.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) M.A. Classes cannot be opened until the new buildings for the Ravenswaw College are completed, and it will be a matter for the new Government to decide whether and, if so, when such classes are to be opened.

(*d*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to a similar question of the Hon'ble Babu Braja Sundar Das.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Is it a fact that a memorial has been submitted to Government on behalf of the public meeting held at Cuttack for the removal of a beef-stall from the site where it is under construction ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision on the memorial

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The site has not yet been finally settled.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the monthly returns of vital statistics of the Balsore Dist. for the last twelve months ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that most of the deaths are due to malaria ?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that cases of beri beri have also occurred in some places in that District ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to prevent the spread of malaria in the Balasore district ?

(*e*) Do the Government intend to direct an inquiry into the causes of several diseases from which the district is so seriously suffering, with a view to organize measures for the improvement of the situation ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Slightly more than half the deaths were ascribed to fevers, and most of these cases were probably malaria.

(*c*) Yes. Two hundred and ten cases have been treated in the past year in Balasore Hospital.

(*d*) (*i*) Large stocks of quinine were kept in all the hospitals and dispensaries in the district for distribution to malarial patients.

(*ii*) Free distribution of quinine was made through the police and vaccination staff in the affected areas.

(*iii*) Two fever-relief committees were formed in the town of Balasore, the members of which were supplied with medicines from the hospital, which they distributed to patients in their houses under instructions from the Assistant Surgeon of the Sadar Hospital.

(*iv*) Insanitary pits are being filled up by the municipality to prevent the breeding of malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

(*v*) A Sub-assistant Surgeon is carrying out a malaria survey in the town of Balasore.

(*e*) Government have at present no officers available who would be competent to undertake such an inquiry as is suggested by the hon'ble member.

Extract from the proceedings of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council met in the Council Chamber at Ranchi on Friday, the 10th September. 1920.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABHANDU DAS ASKED :

Is there any foundation for the rumour that district headquarters of Balasore will be removed from Balasore to Bhadrak ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

Government are not aware of any such rumour. If it exists, there is no foundation for it.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased to state-

(*a*) how many pits have been filled up in the town of Balasore since His Honour's last visit to that municipality and the amount expended thereon ; and

(*b*) what steps have been taken to establish water works in the Balasore municipality for which allotments have been made in the last two budgets ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON :

(*a*) It is reported that 29 pits have already been filled up and that 4 more have been taken in hand, that a sum of Rs.8,419 has been spent up to date and that provision has been made for filling up 85 pits in all.

(*b*) A revised scheme has not yet been prepared, but it is hoped that the Sanitary Engineer will be able to take it up at an early date as the Sanitary Board have placed this project first on the list of desirable projects

not yet taken up. Till the scheme is revised, no allotment can be made.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

With reference to their reply in the last meeting of the Council regarding the steps taken for the prevention of the spread of malaria in Balasore, last year are these now being continued ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. SIFTON :

Yes, with the exception of free distribution of quinine on a large scale. This measure is adopted only during an epidemic of malaria, and there is at present no such epidemic in Balasore.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Is it a fact that the middle and training school examination questions on all the subjects except literature are the same in all the different vernaculars of the Province ?

(*b*) Is the examination in each different subject controlled by a head examiner ?

(*c*) If not, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of introducing the system of uniform marking by a head examiner in each subject for all vernaculars ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) This year the questions in Oriya, Bengali and Hindi were different but those in Hindi and Urdu were the same. In previous years the questions except those on literature were practically the same in all the vernaculars.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The suggestion is not feasible. It would be difficult to find examiners with an adequate knowledge of all four vernaculars.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED

(*a*) Is it a fact that grazing fees have recently been increased in the Khurda forest ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to give a statement showing (*i*) the present fees for different classes of domestic animals and the proposed increase in each case, (*ii*) the day from which the increase is to take effect, and (*iii*) the reason for the increase ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The grazing fees for sheep and goats have been increased from annas 4 to Re.1 per head per annum. No change has been made in the rates for any other domestic animals.

(*ii*) The orders of Government sanctioning the increase were passed on 16th January, 1920. The new rates were brought into effect from April, 1920.

(*iii*) The increase is intended to discourage the keeping of sheep and goats for commercial purposes in the protected forests owing to the damage which they do to tree-growth.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Are the Government aware of the fact that in the affected parts of the Puri district may of the chaukidari presidents pay from their own pocket the chaukidari tax which the distressed residents of their union are unable to pay?

(*b*) If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to issue intructions to suspend or remit the collection of the tax from such persons as are not in a position to pay it ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) Government are aware that in parts of the Puri district where distress exists, the poorer classes find difficulty in paying the chaukidari assessments. Where

the amounts collected are insufficient to defray the salaries of the chaukidars, under the law the sum required is payable by the members of the panchayat but not necessarily by the President.

(*b*) The Commissioner has submitted proposals for the remission of the chaukidari tax payable by persons assessed at 8 annas or less in the affected areas, and these proposals have been sanctioned by Government.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to give a statement showing-

(*i*) the number of persons in each of the affected thanas of the Puri district in receipt of gratuitous relief during the third week of August, 1920 and

(*ii*) the population according to the last census and the percentage of recipients of gratuitous relief to the entire population in each thana ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state for the information of the Council in which of these thanas the conditions laid down in section 68 of the Bihar and Orissa Famine Code for the declaration of famine have been satisfied ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The criterion laid down has been attained in Gop, Pipli and Puri Sadar thanas.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED AS A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :

" Will the Government be pleased to state if they intend declaring famine in the three thanas Gop, Pipli and Puri Sadar, where the conditions have been satisfied ?"

THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK REPLIED :

" Government have no such present intention."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Are the Government aware that the Chaukidari Act of 1871 is systematically disregarded in the Puri district as regards the signing of village birth and death registers by one of the members of the chaukidari panchayat ?

(*b*) If so, do the Government intend to remedy this state of things ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

Government are not aware that the state of affairs described in the question exists in the Puri district, but enquiry will be made if the hon'ble member so desires.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABNADHU DAS ASKED AS A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION :

"I desire to have the information."

THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY REPLIED :

"The enquiry desired by the Hon'ble member will be made."

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased to give in a tabular form information regarding the areas inundated in each of the several thanas of the districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore and Sambalpur by the floods of the current year, showing-

(*a*) the number of breaches in flood-embankments ;

(*b*) the depth of water over the areas and the number of days for which they were submerged ;

(*c*) the population living on the tract inundated ;

(*d*) the number of human lives, if any, lost by drowning or any other accidents ;

(*e*) the number of cattle lost, if any, and the number of houses destroyed ;

(*f*) the ownership of the areas ;

(*g*) the gross revenue paid to the zamindars concerned and to the Government for these areas ;

(*h*) which of the areas are considered protected and which unprotected ?

(*i*) the names of the rivers by which they were inundated ,

(*j*) whether any of these areas were inundated by the floods of 1919 and affected by the drought of the previous year ; and

(*k*) the measures of relief, if any, given by Govt. during the first month of the flood and the amount spent for the purpose ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

The information asked for by the hon'ble member has been partly given in answer to questions asked by the Hon'ble Babu Braja Sundar Das and the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath. For the rest, Government will in most matters be informed by the Commissioner when finally reporting on the floods, but they cannot engage to obtain such precise and detailed information as the hon'ble member has asked for. It would be most inadvisable to divert the energies of the local offcers from actual relief work to the collection of such information.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state when the breached portion of the right embankment of the river Debi near the village Osian in the Puri district was repaired this year and when it was broken again during the current year ?

(*b*) Will they enquire why this portion of the embankment was breached within so short a period of its repair ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. MELLOR :

(*a*) The embankment was repaired in June last. A retired line of 4,600 feet length was constructed which breached in several places in the following month.

(*b*) The high flood of 25th July overtopped the new embankment, and the new earth-work to a total length of 2,350 feet was consequently washed away.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased to give a statement showing the amounts which each of the middle English schools of the Province was annually receiving from local bodies before their transfer from the management of such bodies and the amount each is receiving now as Government aids ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

A statement containing the information is laid on the table.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the numbers of students in primary schools in some of the districts of Orissa have decreased owing to distrss ?

(*b*) If the reply be in the affirmative, will they be pleased to give a statement showing the annual decrease in each thana of the districts between the year 1917-18 and 19-20 ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) There has been a decrease in the number of students in primary schools in Orissa during the last three years, which is probably due partly to distress and partly to sickness.

(*b*) Figures for each thana saparately are not available, but a statement containing the information for the districts of the Orissa Division is laid on the table.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Is it a fact that many primary schools in some of the districts of Orissa have been abolished owing to the present distress ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the number of such schools in each district ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) and (*b*) The decrease in the number of primary schools shown in the statement laid on the table in answer to his last question is probably due partly to the prevailing scarcity and distress and partly to sickness. Some of the schools have only been closed temporarily. In some cases the reduction is due to the concentration and amalgamation of redundant schools.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Are the Government aware that in the distressed areas of Orissa many primary school teachers do not regularly get their remuneration from the villagers and have to depend solely upon the stipends from the local bodies ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government consider the desirability of increasing their stipends ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) Voluntary contributions of money or food-grains by the villagers have ceased in many villages, both in the distressed areas and elsewhere.

(*b*) This is primarily a matter for the local bodies. Government have laid down minimum rates, but the local bodies are at liberty to increase these rates if their funds perimt.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) if there are any scholarships or free-studentships exclusively reserved for pupils from the untouchable classes (other than the aborigins) in Government secondary schools and colleges in the Province ; and

(*b*) if the answer be in the affirmative, the number of such scholarships and free-studentships and the institutions in which they are established ?

(*c*) If not, do the Government intend to create such scholarships and free-studentships ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY

(*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

(*c*) There has been no such proposal, but the suggestion will now be considered.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) if there is any special provision for the encouragement of primary education among the untouchable classes (as distinguished from aborigins), and

(*b*) the number of primary schools for students from such classes ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) Information regarding the special measures taken for the education of the "untouchable" classes will be found in Chapter XVII of the Quinquennial review of education and in the chapter on the education of special classes in the annual reports. Special grants have been made for the education of Pans in Orissa.

(*b*) 135. When no objections are raised, untouchables are encouraged to attend ordinary schools.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if in consequence of Mr. Sinha's resolution on the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts they have received any communication from the Government of India asking their opinion on the subject ?

(*b*) If the answer be in the affirmative, will they be pleased to state if they have sent their reply ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The materials for a reply will not be complete until after the census in March next and the Government

of India have asked that it may be sent by the 1st of May, 1921.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received sanction from the Government of India for the establishment of an engineering school at Cuttack ?

(*b*) If so, when do they intend to start the institution ?

(*c*) If the answer be in the negative, will the Govt. be pleased to take steps to expedite the matter ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

The Hon'ble member's attention is invited to a similar question asked by the Hon'ble Babu Braja Sundar Das.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of scholarships reserved for the post-graduate teaching of the Oriya graduates from the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack ?

(*b*) In view of their reply to my question asked on 30th July regarding the opening of post-graduate classes in the Ravenshaw College, do the Government intend to increase the number of such scholarships ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. RAINY :

(*a*) One post-graduate scholarship is reserved for a native of Orissa if a duly qualified candidate is avilable.

(*b*) It is not at present intended to increase the number of post-graduate scholarships.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to make a statement of their policy with regard to the sarbarakari system in the Khurda subdivision ?

(*b*) Has the re-grouping of the sarbrakaris been completed ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state if they received any objections from the sarbarkars of Khurda to such re-grouping ?

(d) If so, how have they disposed of these objections ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(a) The policy of Government with regard to the Sarbarakars is to aim at greater efficiency by eliminating useless incumbents and making the remuneration adequate for those who are retained.

(b) No.

(c) A few objections were received at the end of 1918 and the beginning of 1919.

(d) Government declined to interfere.

THE HON'BLE BABU GOPABANDHU DAS ASKED :

With reference to the reply given by the Hon'ble Sir Walter Maude to the Hon'ble Babu Braja Sundar Das's resolution in the last meeting of the Council, will the Government be pleased :

(a) to state how many times the committee (the standing committee referred to in the reply) has met since its creation :

(b) to lay on the table the proceedings of the meetings of this committee for the last three years ; and

(c) to state whether the committee has ever suggested any measures for the solution of the flood problem in Orissa, and what action, if any, Government have taken on their suggestions ?

REPLY BY THE HON'BLE MR. HUBBACK :

(a) The information is not yet available, but will be supplied when received :

(b) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to a similar question asked by the hon'ble Babu Braja Sundar Das.

(*c*) The Committee has never attempted any general solution of the flood problem in Orissa, Its function is to examine specific proposals put before it by its members of the kind indicated in the minutes of its last meeting. Its recommendations are considered by the officers of the Public Works Department, the orders of Government being taken when those orders are required.

APPENDIX - L

	Population	Number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief on 21st August	Percentage
Gop	114,326	11,738	10.3
Pipli	258,241	4,612	1.8
Puri Sadar	222,642	3,769	1.6
Khurda	222,548	51	.02

APPENDIX - M

STATEMENT - A

List of Middle English Schools previously managed by Local Bodies, but now aided by Government

Name of district	Name of School	Amount provided by local bodies in 1916 ‡	Present monthly grant.
1	2	3	4
	Patna Division	Rs.	Rs.
Patna	Mookameh M. E. School	61	80
	Fatwa ,,	Not known	100
	Lai ,,	,,	45
Gaya	Kako ,,	,,	115
Shahabad	Surajpura ,,	..	55
	Dehri ,,	Not known	55
	Tirhut Division		
Champaran	Bagaha M. E. School	62	95
	Kesaria ,,	58	75
	Motihari ,,	....	100
Darbhanga	Samastipur ,,	50	62
	Bhagalpur Division		
Monghyr	Majhaul M. E. School	132	100

	Chitraur ,,	111	100
	Kharagpur ,,	28	35
	Teghra ,,	70	85
	Chakai ,,	103	110
	Baro ,,	Not known	115
	Srimatpur ,,	,,	120
Bhagalpur	Sultanganj ,,	37	915
	Kishanganj ,,	Not known	118
	Dumraon ,,	23	97
	Bangaon ,,	21	83
Purnea	Abadpur ,,	60	85
	Chota Nagpur Division		
Ranchi	Khunti M. E. School	26	110
Palamau	Nagaruntari ,,	80	100
	Husainabad ,,	83	90
Manbhum	Ladhurka ,,	73	100
	Manihara ,,	64	90
	Orissa Division		
Cuttack	Asureswar M. E. School	26	70
	Mahasinghpur ,,	7	70
	Jagatsinghpur ,,	13	45
	Chirchika ,,	37	100
	Kalyanpur ,,	28	75
Balasore	Basta ,,	49	95

Puri	Nimapara M. E. School	73	60
	Bhubaneswar ,,	108	90
	Banpur ,,	34	90
Sambalpur	Patnaikpara ,,	114	30
	Rampella ,,	73	60
	Tampasara ,,	122	95
	Barpali ,,	Not known	85
	Padampur ,,	93	60

‡ Later figures are not available.

STATEMENT - B

List of Middle English Schools formerly aided by Local Bodies and now aided by Government

Name of district	Name of School	Grant given by local bodies			Grant given from Provincial revenues
1	2	3			4
	Patna Division	R.	a.	p.	Rs.
Patna	Bharatpur M.E. School	50	0	0	65
	Phulwari ,,	100	0	0	105
	Islampur Khaneka M.E. School	75	0	0	100
Gaya	Arwal ,,	73	0	0	60
	Deo ,,	73	0	0	75
	Bhadeya ,,	82	8	0	100
	Gaya ,,	100	0	0	100
	Daudnagar ,,	91	0	0	95
Shahabad	Murar ,,	52	0	0	75
	Manjhwari ,,	37	8	0	50
	Shahpur ,,	60	0	0	45
	Koath ,,	50	0	0	60
	Gundi ,,	30	0	0	75
	Ghandi ,,	50	0	0	80

	Tirhut Division				
Saran	Aphar M. E. School	50	0	0	85
	Amnaur ,,	75	0	0	60
	Hasanpur ,,	25	0	0	75
Champaran	Barharwa ,,	64	0	0	85
	Turkaulia ,,	15	0	0	70
Muzaffarpur	Simra ,,	60	0	0	75
	Jaintpur ,,	35	0	0	75
	Sheohar ,,	55	0	0	60
	Gharbhara ,,	45	0	0	75
Darbhanga	Ballour ,,	50	0	0	85
	Dighra ,,	50	0	0	60
	Rohika ,,	40	0	0	50
	Pandaul ,,	50	0	0	60
	Dalsingsarai ,,	45	0	0	45
	Narhan ,,	50	0	0	65
	Heycock Bengali Laheriasarai M. E. School	20	0	0	75
	Roserah ,,	25	0	0	95
	Bhagalpur Division				
Monghyr	Jalalabad M. E. School	75	8	0	75
	Muhammadpur M.E.School	75	0	0	75
	Sangrampur Adami ,,	60	0	0	90
	Barhaya M. E. School	75	0	0	80

	Gogri M. E. School	60	0	0	60
	Jhajha ,,	30	0	0	30
	Nayagaon ,,	60	0	0	90
	Rampur ,,	65	0	0	70
	Shaikhpura ,,	50	0	0	75
	Tarapur ,,	30	0	0	70
	Mallehpur ,,	60	0	0	75
	Basudeopur ,,	30	0	0	100
	Kehsopur ,,	20	0	0	30
	Lamalpur Islamia ,,	36	0	0	45
Bhagalpur	Pakra ,,	40	0	0	45
	Birbana ,,	40	0	0	75
	Kharhara ,,	57	0	0	57
	Puraini ,,	40	0	0	85
	Kakwara ,,	40	0	0	70
	Radhanagar ,,	40	0	0	40
	Barwari ,,	40	0	0	70
Bhagalpur concld.	Barahat M. E. School	40	0	0	80
	Manikpur ,,	40	0	0	60
	Panjwara ,,	44	0	0	100
	Rampurdih ,,	44	0	0	75
Purnea	Manihari ,,	132	8	0	120
	Churli ,,	25	0	0	80
	Kasba ,,	25	0	0	80
	Purneacity ,,	55	0	0	75

	Forbesganj M. E. School	50	0	0	66
	Chota Nagpur Division				
Ranchi	Murhu M.E.School	100	0	0	100
	Gumla ,,	89	0	0	90
	Bundu ,,	50	0	0	70
Palamau	Garhwa ,,	62	0	0	60
Manbhum	Madhutati ,,	60	0	0	90
	Mautorh ,,	30	0	0	50
	Hutmura ,,	40	0	0	80
	Bara Bazar ,,	40	0	0	60
	Manbazar ,,	30	0	0	80
	Kashipur ,,	50	4	0	50
	Adra ,,	50	0	0	50
Hazaribagh	Barhi ,,	60	0	0	70
	Ichak ,,	60	0	0	60
	Chatra ,,	20	0	0	100
	Orissa Division				
Cuttack	Behera M. E. School	20	0	0	50
	Siddheswarpur ,,	43	0	0	70
	Balikuda ,,	30	0	0	90
	Bahugram ,,	36	0	0	65
	Kendrapara (Baldev) M.S.Echool	3	0	0	75
	Manda ,,	56	0	0	80
	Kanpur ,,	30	0	0	50

Balasore	Tyndakura M. E. Sehool	40	0	0	80
	Fakirabad ,,	23	0	0	90
	Patamundai ,,	30	0	0	80
	Rambagh ,,	35	0	0	90
	Barchana ,,	30	0	0	60
	Korai ,,	20	0	0	100
	Salepur ,,	30	0	0	50
	Kothpada ,,	21	0	0	65
	Kakhra ,,	27	0	0	70
	Bhograj ,,	30	0	0	80
	Uttar Daula ,,	30	0	0	80
	Alalpur ,,	25	0	0	80
	Soro ,,	49	0	0	75
	Ertak ,,	25	0	0	80
	Dolsahi ,,	65	12	0	80
	Bagurai ,,	30	0	0	80
	Narayan Chandra ,,	25	0	0	90
	Dhamnagar ,,	25	0	0	80
	Chandhali ,,	30	0	0	70
Puri	Delang ,,	40	0	0	70
	Damodarpur ,,	45	0	0	50
Sambalpur	Jharsuguda ,,	108	0	0	100

APPENDIX - N

Name of district	1917-18			
	Number of primary Schools	Increase or decrease since previous year	Number of pupils in primary schools	Increase or decrease since previous year
1	2	3	4	5
Cuttack	3,245	—122	85,737	—1,118
Balasore	1,831	+ 10	48,523	+1,314
Angul	248	— 3	9,998	+ 112
Puri	1,622	— 36	33,846	— 914
Sambalpur	237	..	13,970	— 521
Total	7,183	—151	192,074	—1,127

1918-19				1919-20			
Number of primary schools	Increase or decrease since previous year	Number of pupils in primary schools	Increase or decrease since previous year	Number of primary schools	Increase or decrease since previous year	Number of pupils in primary schools	Increase or decrease since previous year
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3,152	—93	82,562	—3,175	3,221	+ 69	86,273	+3,711
1,848	+17	50,213	+1,690	1,740	—108	46,916	—3,297
259	+11	9,791	— 207	249	— 10	8,434	—1,357
1,591	—31	33,180	— 666	1,447	—144	30,209	—2,971
256	+19	14,072	+ 102	276	+ 20	14,580	+ 508
7,106	—77	189,818	—2,256	6,933	—173	186,412	—3,404

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